

Webster resigns as CIA chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush announced Wednesday that William Webster is retiring as director of the Central Intelligence Agency. No successor was immediately announced. Webster, a former federal judge, was director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation before taking the CIA post. Bush, just returned from an initial medical checkup on his hyperactive thyroid, summoned reporters to the White House briefing room for the breakfast-hour announcement. "I am proud and privileged to have served with the president and his national security adviser," Webster said at a televised news conference with Bush.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Crown Prince presses need to rethink security

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan stressed Wednesday the need to link the concept of security in the Middle East to the questions of demography, environment and ideology. "Extensive linkages exist between security, or rather insecurity, and the degradation of people, environment and cultural identity," the Crown Prince said in a speech delivered to the Benachri countries at the plenary session of the "Democracy, Prosperity: A Regional Perspective on the Middle East" conference in Amsterdam, Holland. In the speech delivered at the 20th world conference, Crown Prince Hassan said "the abuse of human and political rights, ecocide and the loss of cultural identity are all too readily apparent in the Middle East."

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Iraqi gunners fire on U.S. fighter plane

INCIRLIK, Turkey (Agencies) — Iraqi anti-aircraft gunners opened fire on a U.S. navy plane but missed, an allied military spokesman said on Wednesday. The Iraqi fired three short bursts on Tuesday evening at the A-6 intruder fighter-bomber as it flew over Iraqi territory, the spokesman said.

Asked whether the United States planned to retaliate or complain to the Iraqi government, he said he could not comment.

In another incident, an Italian military convoy taking relief supplies to Kurdish refugees was hit by automatic weapons fire in Turkey on Monday, the spokesman said.

The first two vehicles in the convoy were hit but no one was injured, he said. He did not know who fired on the convoy but Turkish authorities were investigating the incident, he added.

The convoy was on the road from Diyarbakir in Turkey to the allied "safe haven" camp set up for Kurdish refugees in the northern Iraqi town of Zakho. The attack took place near the village of Eisepte, close to the Syrian border.

The U.S. plane was not damaged in the attack and the pilot was not injured, according to a statement from the headquarters of the allied relief operation for the Kurdish refugees, located at Incirlik air base in Turkey.

The pilot of the A-6 reported three short bursts of anti-aircraft artillery fire on Tuesday evening, the statement said. The fire was apparently directed at the plane, it added.

Reporters in Dohuk saw U.S. aircraft continuing to fly over Dohuk on Wednesday.

Iraqi troops appeared to be digging in around the city on Wednesday, setting up sandbag positions with machine guns about three kilometres from the American front line.

But marine Capt. Bill McEvoy said his battalion was having no problems with the Iraqis.

"Both sides have been pretty cooperative," said the captain who was outside Dohuk.

Meanwhile, the U.N.'s special envoy to northern Iraq said Tuesday that Iraqi Kurds were returning home from squalid border refugee camps faster than expected. It was one of the first indications the allied effort to establish a safe haven for Kurds is paying off.

"There's light at the end of the tunnel," U.N. envoy Steffen de Mistura told the Associated Press. "They are responding so enthusiastically."

Meanwhile more than one million Kurdish refugees camped in squalid sanitary conditions in Iraq face a "major risk" of cholera and typhoid epidemics, a U.N. official in Tehran said Wednesday.

Numerous confirmed cases of typhoid fever have been reported in the refugee camps, especially in western Bakhtaran province, which hosts the highest number of Iraqi Kurds.

Although there have been no confirmed cases of cholera, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in sending vaccines to the camps "in case of an outbreak of cholera that in the present conditions could occur at any time," said Marwan Khoury, a spokesman in Tehran in a long-distance interview from Nicola.

French defence minister to visit Jordan

AMMAN (R) — French Defence Minister Pierre Joxe will visit Jordan on Saturday for post-Gulf war cooperation talks, political sources said on Wednesday. Joxe, a powerful Socialist member of Prime Minister Michel Rocard's government, will meet His Majesty King Hussein and other senior government and military officials, the sources said. They gave no further details and embassy officials were not immediately available for comment. King Hussein met Joxe in Paris in March on his first visit to a European capital since the end of the Gulf war.

Egypt to withdraw all troops from Gulf

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak said on Wednesday Egypt would pull out all the troops it sent to the Gulf in response to Iraq's seizure of Kuwait.

"Egypt has decided to withdraw all its forces from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait," Mubarak said in remarks carried by the national news agency MENA.

Egypt sent at least 35,000 men armed with tanks and missiles to Saudi Arabia following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait last Aug. 2. The Egyptian force fought in the U.S.-led ground battle that defeated Iraq and drove its army out of the emirate at the end of February.

The troop withdrawal leaves a question mark over post-Gulf war security arrangements in the region agreed in March by Egypt, Syria and six conservative Gulf Arab states.

Diplomats had said the agreement provided for the stationing of Egyptian and Syrian troops in

the Gulf in return for economic development aid for Cairo and Damascus.

It followed talks by the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

"In fact, our troops went there at the request of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and in compliance with decisions taken by the Cairo Arab summit," Mubarak said referring to a meeting of Arab leaders a week after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

"Our troops were sent, two divisions with support forces, in addition to some crack troops. They have completed their mission," he said.

"I decided to return these troops a month ago," said Mubarak, who is also supreme commander of the armed forces.

"Within 24 or three months at most all our forces in the region

will have left after completing their mission," he said.

Egyptian officials repeatedly spoke afterward of the need for experts from the eight countries to get together to negotiate details of the force.

But as no such meeting materialised, reports began circulating of Egypt's dismay over GCC preoccupation with how Iran should be involved in regional security arrangements.

Angered by the Damascus statement, Iran demanded a role in any regional security system. The state-run English-language Tehran Times, which reflects government thinking, said any arrangements made "without considering Iran as the strongest country in the Persian Gulf region is certainly doomed to fail."

GCC foreign minister met in Kuwait last weekend and said afterward they were holding "intensive contacts" with Iraq over its involvement in regional security.

"Iran is a friend and neighbour, and it has to play a role in the security of the region," said Qatar's foreign minister, Mubarak Ali Al Khater, the session's chairman. "We will soon come out with a plan regarding this."

On Tuesday, Sultan Qaboos of Oman chaired a meeting of the cooperation council's supreme security committee. Its announced aim was to develop regional security arrangements that some sources believe will include Iran eventually.

Egypt consistently has maintained that it sees no active role in Arab Gulf security for non-Arab neighbours.

Osama Al Baz, Mubarak's top political aide, told a seminar in March: "Iran and Turkey will not be members of an Arab security system. Their security needs can be met with certain arrangements like signing non-aggression pacts with them."

Bessmertnykh assures Arabs of continuing Soviet support

Bush optimistic on Baker's chances

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, complementing Washington's Middle East peace efforts, arrived in Damascus on Wednesday with assurances that Moscow was not abandoning its traditional support for the Arabs.

"The Soviet Union has been and is going to be a strong supporter of Arab causes. We support the rights of the Palestinian people. We believe there should be a just settlement," he told reporters on arrival.

Bessmertnykh, opening his first Middle East tour since taking office, said that in Israel late this week, "we shall be pressing for that kind of settlement. So there is no deviation from the position of principle that the Soviet Union has been holding for a long time."

Syria, the Arab country closest to Moscow, wants the Soviet Union to counterbalance the diplomacy of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, widely seen in the Arab World as insufficiently firm against Israel.

Baker arrives in Damascus later this week on his fourth trip to the region since the end of the Gulf war, with little to show for his first three attempts to bridge the gap between Arab and Israeli positions on a Middle East peace conference.

One Syrian newspaper said on Wednesday that diplomacy had failed and the international community should take political and economic measures against Israel.

The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to co-sponsor the proposed peace conference but many details, such as

Palestinian representation and the role of the United Nations, are still in dispute.

Bessmertnykh will see President Hafez Al Assad and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa before leaving for Jordan, Israel, Egypt and Lebanon, the four other countries central to the peace process. He is expected to see Baker in Cairo on Sunday.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will meet him during the tour, PLO sources said. Arab media reports said that would be in Amman on Thursday.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said he will ask the Soviet minister, the first to visit Israel since the Middle East war of 1967, to abandon the PLO "for the sake of peace."

But Bessmertnykh's remarks on arrival indicated he would not comply. Moscow has long supported the PLO and its position on peace is similar to that of the PLO and most Arab states.

They all favour a U.N. conference based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory and negotiations on a

lasting settlement. The Israeli government has rejected the principle of land for peace and opposes a U.N. role in the proposed conference.

Two urgent issues expected to come up in Bessmertnykh's talks are Soviet immigration to Israel and the new Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

As the minister arrived in Damascus, the official Syria Times newspaper accused Israel of trying to undermine the efforts

Jordan places great importance on Soviet role

By Nermeen Masad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan places great importance on the Soviet role in the Middle East talks because the Soviet Union can pressure Israel with halting Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel, a senior cabinet minister said Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Taher Masri, told the Jordan Times in an interview that the Soviet Union holds "a very important card because it can control the massive influx of Soviet Jews into Israel."

His comments came on the eve of Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh's scheduled two-day visit to Jordan during which he is to hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein and Jordanian officials.

Bessmertnykh's visit to Jordan comes as part of a four-nation tour which has already taken him to Damascus and is expected to

include Israel and Egypt.

Masri also pointed to the prominence of the Soviet role in efforts to broker a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict in its capacity as "a partner of the U.S. in peace efforts and co-sponsor of the proposed peace conference."

The United States has launched efforts to bring Israel and the Arabs to a negotiating table, under the direct sponsorship of the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

U.S. President George Bush has called for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on U.N. resolution 242 and 338 which call on Israel to withdraw from the lands it occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war in exchange for peace.

Jordan has welcomed these efforts and the idea of a conference but stressed the need to pressure Israel into accepting international legitimacy and ending

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His Majesty King Hussein lights a candle in celebration of the Red Cross, Red Crescent day (photo by Youssef Al'Arian)

Jordan joins campaign to protect victims of war

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday attended a celebration on the International Day of Red Cross and Red Crescent. This year's celebration is devoted to the protection of victims of war and held under the slogan "Light in the Darkness." His Majesty delivered the following address at the celebration:

"Today the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is bringing the plight of the victims of war to the world's attention. Here in Jordan we have experienced and suffered from the effects of war, both directly and indirectly, shared in the hope that with the end of the Cold War, peace and security would finally come to the world, and not least to our troubled region. Despite every effort to follow the path of peace, the clouds of war darkened our area, with all predictable horrors ensuing. It is a reality that the consequences of war inevitably affect the innocent, and therefore it is imperative that the message of this campaign be heard by all: Governments, combatants and men and women of good will must help all victims of war by upholding international humanitarian law. It is our duty to fight their darkness."

Her Majesty Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarah and Her Royal Highness Princess Basma along with Their Highnesses Prince Faisal and Princess Alia as well as Prime Minister Mustafar Badran and other officials including the President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society Akmal Abu Quera attended the celebration.

Jordan, IMF talks: Gov't satisfied, businessmen not

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government Wednesday concluded consultations with an IMF team, paving the way for reorganising its debt-servicing agreement and structural adjustment programme in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

But financial and parliamentary sources accused the government of using foreign aid given to help the economic straits, hit by the eight-month Gulf crisis, to cover its budget deficit and balance fiscal policies "to please the IMF at the expense of the national economy."

However, Michel Marito, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan said the IMF team, which concluded consultations with the government Wednesday, was expected to return later in renegotiated Jordan's debt-servicing agreement and structural adjustment programme.

He told the Jordan Times that the IMF was "satisfied that we are serious about our fiscal policy and that the country is not wasting its money."

Despite the colossal damage to the economy, Dr. Marito said, Jordan remained on schedule in servicing around half of its foreign debt. Dr. Marito said the government was honouring commitments

to several Arab and foreign funds, thanks to nearly \$1 billion in foreign aid.

Marito said the IMF was also pleased with Jordan's monetary policies and the government's ability to maintain the stability of the dinar and commodity prices despite the devastating effects of the Gulf crisis.

The Central Bank deputy governor said the economy suffered an eight per cent "real decline" in the gross domestic product (GDP). Considering a four per cent average population growth rate, the GDP decline translates into a 12 per cent decline in the Kingdom's per capita income.

"It appears the economy is more resilient than we originally thought considering the circumstances," Marito said, striking a note of optimism. "But we have to recognise the good support that Jordan received," he added, referring to foreign aid paid to the Kingdom.

The government had allocated JD 120 million for additional spending in an emergency budget included in the 1991 national budget, to be covered from foreign aid.

But financial sources, including officials who spoke to the Jordan Times, said the government was using the foreign aid received to compensate economic sectors damaged by the Gulf crisis to cover its

estimated JD 355 million budget deficit in addition to the JD 120 million emergency spending.

"This is not what the government was supposed to do," a prominent financial source said. "We asked the United Nations for funds to compensate the sectors which suffered, such as transport, tourism, agriculture and industry," the source said. "These sectors, which were supposed to receive \$800 million, have literally received nothing."

The source explained that the private sector, which was the biggest loser in the Gulf crisis, "received nothing in terms of tax breaks, a rescheduling of private debts and other creative ways to compensate the private sector."

"We are not asking for cash handouts," the source said. "We were hoping that the aid would be used to revive the economy rather than to please the IMF."

A parliament deputy charged that the government was "sticking letters and soul with the IMF agreement."

He said it has been doing the things that help its image with the IMF rather than the economy as a whole. They "practically used the misery of the private sector to get funds to cover the budget deficit," the deputy added.

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West Bank, Gaza surveys show support shifting among Palestinian groups

By Jon Innesmannel
The Jerusalem Post

Two separate Palestinian surveys conducted in recent weeks indicate that Islamist movements on the West Bank and Gaza, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, may have far less hardcore support than has been generally supposed.

In one survey, Hamas is given 18 per cent support in the Gaza Strip. In the other it gets only 13 per cent, while support for Islamic Jihad ranges from 5 to 10 per cent. Both surveys together credit the Islamic radicals with about 23 per cent support in the Gaza Strip.

One Hamas leader dismissed the surveys as nonsense. He told The Jerusalem Post that the strength of the movement is over 60 per cent in the Gaza Strip and close to 50 per cent in the West Bank. Even non-Hamas analysts have estimated its strength at about 40 per cent in the Gaza Strip and 25 per cent in the West Bank.

The surveys were conducted by the Arab Center for Research and Studies in East Jerusalem, associated with the daily Al Nahar, and by Dr. Eyad el-Sarraj who heads the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme. The first surveyed 1,400 people just before the war and in early April, the second 311 in early March.

There are methodological problems in both surveys. Questions are sometimes imprecise and no margin of error is given, but the similarity in some of their findings is thought-provoking.

The polls do not give much more than 25 per cent to Yasser Arafat's Patah, considered easily the dominant faction in the PLO. One poll gives the PLO as a whole 68 per cent, the other gives it 46 per cent.

The ACRS poll, for instance, indicates strong criticism of how the PLO operates, suggesting that well over 90 per cent surveyed believe PLO

financial support is distributed unfairly.

Both polls indicate that most Palestinians want to continue the intifada, but believe it has lost direction. They also suggest that support at the Palestinian grassroots in refugee camps for a Palestinian state alongside Israel (rather than in its place, as Hamas demands) has grown sharply since the Gulf war.

Lower than expected support for Islamic groups does not seem to have been much affected either way by the Gulf war, despite widespread expectations that once Palestinians perceived Iraq's defeat, their despair would drive them to religious fundamentalism.

Strong or not, the traditional sixth of the month Islamic Jihad strike day on Monday provided a near perfect laboratory test of where Islamic fundamentalism can confront the PLO in the territories. Observance of the strike varied from

near complete in a few strongly supportive areas, to a commercial strike or none at all in other areas.

In its Leaflet No. 70 issued last week, the PLO-aligned United National Leadership issued a "demand that residents comply only with these (UNL and Hamas) leaflets and ignore others' calls for strikes."

But Palestinians observed an Islamic Jihad general strike call, published in leaflets and wall graffiti, in several towns Monday despite the UNL order.

In Gaza, the strike was fully observed and Gazans on Sunday took it for granted that they would strike.

In the West Bank, however, there were more nuances. In Tulkarm and Hebron, where Islamic fundamentalism is strong the commercial strike was total. In Nabhus and Jenin, where Patah is strong, there was no strike.

President Saddam meets Barzani; Kurdish team says talks positive

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Wednesday met a Kurdish delegation holding talks with his government for greater autonomy in northern Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

Iraqi officials said earlier the president was unlikely to meet Kurds until a deal was reached. The meeting was the first between President Saddam and Kurdish leaders since April 24, when Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), announced an agreement in principle for more autonomy to end the decades-old conflict with the central authority in Baghdad.

INA said the four-man delegation was led by Massoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP).

Talabani, who led the first round of talks with a government delegation led by President Saddam's deputy Izzat Ibrahim last month, said the agreement in principle would be signed by Barzani.

The two sides began the second round of talks on Monday and both assessed prospects for an accord as positive.

It was not immediately known if the Iraqi government had agreed to key Kurdish demands for international guarantees for any accord and for Kurdish control of the oil produced in the area around Kirkuk.

Diplomats said Iraq was under pressure to strike a deal that would bring peace to the Kurdish north after its troops crushed a post-Gulf war revolt.

The Kurds, who form one-fifth of Iraq's 18 million people, say a 1970 accord, which would form the basis for any new agreement, was never fully put into practice.

A senior Iraqi official has ruled out conceding control of Kirkuk's oil or agreeing to international guarantees, sought by the Kurds to ally mistrust among some about the Iraqi regime's motives.

The area accounts for about a quarter of Iraq's total output of 3.2 million barrels per day (bpd) before it invaded Kuwait last

Aug. 2. A twin pipeline that used to carry 1.6 million bpd to Turkey also passes through northern Iraq.

Some two million Iraqis, mainly Kurds, fled to Turkey and Iran after Iraqi troops put down revolts in the north and the Shiite south.

President Saddam has been touring provincial areas for the past 10 days in an apparent drive to promote an image of normalcy and popularity following the Gulf war and the unrest.

INA said besides Ibrahim, the meeting was also attended by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

On the Iraq-Kuwait border, the last American troops pulled out of southern Iraq on Wednesday after fighting a war and helping the refugees it left behind.

Elements of the 3rd armoured division rumbled across the sun-scorched desert littered with blasted Iraqi tanks and entered northern Kuwait to begin the long push home.

Sweden donates money for purchasing brain surgery equipment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden, in cooperation with the Jordanian Swedish Medical Association, have donated 275,000 Swedish crowns (approximately \$45,000) for the purchase of special, Swedish made stereotactic instrumentation used to perform advanced brain surgery.

The equipment will be received next month by the Society for Care of Neurological Patients in Jordan whose president is Her Royal Highness Princess Majda.

Jordan, Taiwan discuss trade ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met Wednesday with a Taiwanese trade delegation which arrived in Amman Tuesday on a several-day visit for talks with Jordanian businessmen. Both sides discussed existing trade relations between Jordan and Taiwan and ways to promote and bolster them.

The chamber's Board of Directors, Deputy Chairman Haider Issa Murad briefed the delegation on the aspects of the Jordanian economy and on the natural resources in the Kingdom. Mr. Murad outlined the importance of Jordan's geographic location in the Arab world and said it enabled Jordan to play as a transit point between the Arab countries. He stressed the need to enhance technical, financial and commercial cooperation between Jordan and Taiwan, particularly in the fields of transfer of technology and workforce and commodity exchange.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Wednesday inaugurates the intensive care unit at the Hilal Hospital (Petra photo)

Princess Sarvath inaugurates intensive care unit of Hilal Hospital

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, honorary chairperson of the women branch of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society, Wednesday inaugurated the intensive care unit at the Hilal Hospital, which is run by the branch, on the International Day of the Red Crescent and Red Cross. Dr. Mohammad Al Hadid, JNRCS vice president,

said in a statement that the unit cost JD 120,000, financed through the Hilal Hospital's revenues and other contributions. The unit was supplied with most up-to-date equipment that caters to the needs of the patients.

According to Dr. Hadid, the Hilal Hospital was formed in 1953 under patronage and supervision of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al

Sharaf, the Queen Mother, and it started off with only two rooms for patients and an operation theatre as well as a room for nurses. At present, thanks to continued support from the Queen Mother, the hospital accommodates 90 beds, has several wings and units offering medical assistance to the needy, Dr. Hadid said.

Plans under way for pilgrims

By Issam Qadambani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian and Palestinian pilgrims performing this year's pilgrimage to Mecca are expected to leave for Saudi Arabia between June 3 and 6, according to Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Secretary General Ahmad Helayel.

In a statement to Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, Dr. Helayel said that due to delay in registering names of would-be pilgrims, the cost of renting homes for the pilgrims was expected to increase

and the ministry was doing its best to ensure decent housing facilities for the pilgrims.

"The ministry, which organizes the travel and housing arrangements for the pilgrims, will not tolerate any failure or shortcomings that could adversely affect the pilgrims' conditions," said Dr. Helayel.

He said that the ministry was expected to announce the cost of transportation and other services in the coming week. Earlier this week, Dr. Helayel announced that Jordan and Saudi Arabia reached agreement on

arrangements for Jordanian pilgrims performing this year's pilgrimage in Mecca and Medina.

Dr. Helayel, who concluded the agreement with his Saudi counterpart, Abdul Wahab Abdul Wasee, said that the number of pilgrims from Jordan and the occupied Arab territories was not expected to exceed last year's figures.

He said that nearly 5,000 pilgrims would make the trip from the occupied territories through Jordan, and Jordan would offer them all facilities on the way.

League of Red Cross, Red Crescent coordinates aid to Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies which is extending help to the Iraqi victims of war said Wednesday that its teams in Iraq were applying Jordan National Red Crescent Society's techniques in offering assistance to the needy and to the war victims.

"We are in fact following two lines of assistance: one through the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, to enable it to expand its services to the northern and southern regions of Iraq, and the other through supplying food supplies and coordinating relief services in various regions, according to Solayman Elmaghary, head of the league's Middle East and North Africa Department.

Mr. Elmaghary, who has just returned to Amman from a visit to Baghdad, said in a press statement that he had supervised part of a programme for the distribution of food and medical supplies, in cooperation with the Red Crescent Society in Baghdad where the league has recently opened an office. The office in Baghdad coordinates its tasks with the Amman office which in turn organizes the transportation of relief supplies through the Aqaba sea port and the Queen Alia International Airport.

Reporting on the situation in the Iraqi cities, Mr. Elmaghary said that there was shortage of clothing to purify drinking water in southern cities and shortages in food supplies, like milk for the children, in the south and north.

"Numerous hospitals sustained heavy damage in the raids which drastically reduced their services and nearly 70 per cent of deaths in Iraq occur among children due to dehydration, the spread of epidemics, lack of sufficient drinking water and lack of sufficient medicines needed to treat people with permanent sickness like diabetes, rheumatism and others," Mr. Elmaghary added.

He said that lack of power supplies was impeding water pumping and medical services.

Two members of the Jordanian Pharmacists Association (JPA), who returned to Amman Tuesday, said in a statement that Iraq had suffered from severe shortages of medical supplies. Ziyad Abu Hummos and Adil Mansour said that nearly three quarters of Iraq's supplies of medicines were destroyed in the air raids. They called on Jordanian pharmaceutical industries to extend help to the Iraqi people.

Official urges Jordanian producers to increase exports to Libyan markets

AMMAN (J.T.) — A member of a Libyan delegation now on a visit to Jordan, in the course of a tour of Arab states, has urged Jordanian exporters to increase their exports of agricultural and industrial products to Libya.

Dr. Mahdi Imbreish, who is also Libya's ambassador to Iran, said that Jordanian workers could be employed and could own real estate in Libya without any restrictions, and that the Libyan borders are now open to all Arabs.

Addressing a meeting at the General Federation of Jordanian Labourers headquarters in Amman, Dr. Imbreish said that Libya and the other Arab countries should extend all possible assistance to Jordan to help it confront the numerous challenges and dangers.

His statement came on the heels of a tour in Jordan by a Libyan businessmen delegation which bought an estimated JD 3 million worth of Jordanian garments and clothes.

Jordan's Agricultural, pharmaceutical and industrial products are now dominating Libya's market, and it is hoped that trade links would be further strengthened according to the head of the Libyan delegation, Mustafa Za'idi, who spoke at a meeting Tuesday with the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament.

The delegation Wednesday visited the northern city of Irbid, where they met with its mayor Abdul Razzak Tubaisat, the town chamber of commerce as well as Yarmouk University.

Jordan, EC initial 4th cooperation protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first of the official steps towards concluding the EC-Jordan 4th protocol was completed in Brussels on Wednesday with the signing of the protocol by Jordan's Ambassador to Belgium Talal Al Hassan and Eberhard Rhein, director of External Relations with Mediterranean Countries at the Commission of the European Communities.

The first three economic, financial and technical protocols have provided a total of European Currency Units (ECUs) 203 million (about \$223.3 million) in grants and loans since the signing of the EC-Jordan cooperation agreement in 1977.

The 4th protocol initiated yesterday will allocate a further ECU 126 million over a five-year period expiring on October 31, 1996. It is envisaged that the funds may be committed as follows:

— ECU 80 million in the form of loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB), made available from its own resources.

— ECU 44 million in grants from the EC budgetary resources.

— ECU 2 million in the form of contributions to risk capital formation, also from EC budgetary resources.

This preliminary step will be followed by the presentation of the protocol to the European Parliament for its formal approval. The protocol will then be officially signed by representatives of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Council of the European Community. It is expected that the protocol be concluded by the end of 1991, probably during the EC-Jordan Council of Cooperation.

Health services in Zarqa increase by 20% in 1991

ZARQA (Petra) — The health centres in the Zarqa Governorate last year increased their activities by 20 per cent over those of the previous year, offering services to 95 per cent of the total population in the Zarqa region, according to the head of the Health Department Dr. Abdul Aziz Shreideh.

Services offered through these centres, he said, covered mother and child care, preventive medicine, which entails vaccination programmes, control of water resources and food supplies as well as health of school students along with all other types of primary health care activities, Dr. Shreideh said in a statement Tuesday.

"At least 535,000 citizens benefited from the centres' activities one way or another during 1990," said Dr. Shreideh. He said the main services went to children

and mothers who received immunisation against diseases, and the students at schools who were visited by the local doctors.

To help spread awareness among the members of the public, the Health Department showed children, documentary films, organised training courses for the local physicians and conducted regular field trips.

The Health Department last year issued 5,360 warnings to local organisations, including restaurants, for their violation of public health safety regulations and for dumping waste in prohibited areas, Dr. Shreideh added.

In addition, he said, the Health Department kept on testing samples of water taken from local springs to ensure health safety and is taking all measures to control treated waste coming out from the treatment plants.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

- ★ Art exhibition by Nasir Issa at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of etchings, lithographs and monotypes at Abdul Hameed Shawan Foundation (10 a.m. — 8 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by disabled children at Naseem Al Hariri Centre.

Farmers meet in Ghor today to discuss pollution of water supplies

By Ghadeer Taber
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan Valley farmers are demanding that the government take concrete steps to guarantee suitable water supplies for irrigation after thousands of dunams were destroyed over the past four months by polluted water released from the King Talal dam.

The farmers, who may have lost as much as JD 60 million as a result of the damage caused by the polluted water, are expected to air their concerns and grievances to the government in a meeting scheduled to take place in the Central Ghor area today, Thursday.

Some are considering taking legal action against the government if officials fail to address the problem.

New tests on Jordan Valley water, soil and crops have confirmed that the damage to the crops was definitely caused by polluted water relieved from the King Talal dam.

The tests, carried out by the University of Jordan's Water Research and Study Centre, indicated that land irrigated by the dam had boron toxicity levels between 10 and 22 ppm (parts per million), whereas in adjacent non-irrigated soil, the boron levels were 2.5 to 3 ppm.

"The high concentration (of boron) in the irrigated areas is attributed to the high boron content in the water released from the dam," said Dr. Omar Rimawi, a hydrochemist working at the centre.

The amount of boron needed in the soil for optimal growth ranges from 0.01 to

four mg per litre. Earlier tests done by the centre found boron levels ranging from 6 to 14 mg per litre.

The farmers insist the government is to blame for supplying them with polluted water from the King Talal dam and that the two agencies in charge of irrigation have to take responsibility for what had happened. Beyond that, however, the farmers want to make sure that future water supplies do not cause the same ecological disaster.

To do this, water experts recommend restarting the now closed Ain Ghazal waste water treatment plant. They said that treatment at Khirbet Al Samra waste water treatment plant, originally constructed for "immediate relief" (a temporary measure for the overloaded Ain Ghazal plant), "is not satisfactory" and as a result the water resources in the area, including King Talal dam, were rapidly deteriorating.

Dr. Elias Salameh, director of the university's Water Research and Study Centre, said if immediate measures were not taken to lower the boron and other "trace element concentration" in irrigation water through mixing of the King Talal dam water or by any other treatment, then other farms will be toxicated by using the King Talal dam water.

Dr. Salameh said the water supply reaching the farmers "is now far better than before," but the water authority "should supply the farmers enough water to flush out the accumulated salts and toxic elements from the soil."

He attributed the improve-

ment in the water quality to the mixing of better quality King Abdullah canal water with the water of King Talal dam water. Experts said that during the months of January and February of this year, the water authority stopped mixing "good" Yarmouk River water with the dam water, thus pure sewage water, which contained certain poisonous elements, was used to irrigate Jordan Valley farmland.

Tests done by the centre also indicated an improvement in the quality of the dam water. The boron content declined from around 1.6 ppm in December 1990 to 0.7 ppm at present, according to the tests.

Dr. Salameh blamed the inefficiency of Khirbet Al Samra waste treatment plant for the deteriorating water quality in the dam. Nearly fifty per cent of the water reaching the King Talal dam, which has a capacity of 89 million cubic metres, originates from Khirbet Al Samra treatment plant effluent.

The centre opposed the Khirbet Al Samra project from the outset because of the high evaporation rate (more than 20 per cent) which exceeded the maximum allowable rate of (15 per cent) and has issued several warnings about the deteriorating water quality as a result of the inefficiency of Khirbet Al Samra plant.

The Water Authority of Jordan (W.A.J.) argued at that time that evaporation does not exceed 14 per cent and the rest was losses through seepage and will decrease after a few months of operation. But experts said seepage itself was already a major cause of pollution that could not be underestimated. Dr. Mohammad Khawaj, a water reclamation engineer at the centre, estimates that evaporation is over 40 per cent.

Suggested solutions by various experts include: The restoring of Ain Ghazal treatment plant with its full capacity and the discharge of the effluent into the Zarqa river. (This will serve as an additional treatment due to the high self-purification capacity along the wadi, thus replenishing the groundwater in the area).

— The amount which cannot be treated in Ain Ghazal should further flow to be treated in the Khirbet Al Samra plant. (The treatment at the plant should be improved by adding lime treatment and "polishing ponds"). This, experts argue, will guarantee a better quality of effluent.

— The construction of a new plant in Zarqa to treat the domestic wastewater of Zarqa, Russeifa and the overloading of Ain Ghazal and the utilisation of Khirbet Al Samra as "polishing ponds" if needed.

— The collection and the treatment of all industrial waste in the area in a specially designed plant.

Farmers said Wednesday they would not be surprised if the ministers invited to attend the meeting organised by the Central Ghor Club failed to show up to take responsibility for the "disaster" which befell them. The ministers concerned are the ministers of water and irrigation, agriculture and industry and trade.

Out of 300,000 handicapped in Jordan, only a few get help — official

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has nearly 300,000 handicapped people, of various types and degrees but only a tiny proportion of them are lucky enough to receive rehabilitation services at government and private institutions, according to the Ministry of Social Development.

"Based on estimates by the World Health Organisation (WHO), at least 10 per cent of the Jordanian population of three million suffer from some kind of disability, but only two per cent of these handicapped people acquire rehabilitation services or guidance," ministry Secretary General Mohammad Esqour said in a statement Wednesday.

Dr. Esqour made the statement on the eve of the country's

observance of the Handicapped children's week which is due to start this coming Saturday.

"Failure to meet the requirements of the handicapped people, especially children, is due to particular reasons, some of which are acceptable," Dr. Esqour said in his statement.

The Ministry of Social Development, he said, has limited means which does not allow for expanding the present services, offered through 15 centres that cater to the needs of nearly 1,300 handicapped children.

Dr. Esqour said that the private sector operated 36 centres, caring for 2,150 handicapped children, and "as it is clear, intensive efforts at all levels are required to meet the growing needs of the

handicapped."

Dr. Esqour said that the Ministry of Social Development gave due care to the handicapped persons through special education, guidance and vocational training. Special courses designed for people with disabilities are given at the ministry's centres, while specialists offer advice to relatives and parents of the handicapped children on ways to help them cope. The ministry runs vocational training centres specifically set up for the handicapped youth," Dr. Esqour added.

Dr. Esqour referred to a law concerning the welfare of the handicapped persons, which went into effect last year, and said the

law provided for the ministry to take whatever measures were necessary to help the handicapped get skills and adjust to the needs of life.

Dr. Esqour said that a number of factors, like limited financial means, the community's attitude towards the handicapped, and the tendency by some families to conceal the presence of disabled people, were obstructing ways of helping rehabilitate this unfortunate sector of the community.

Dr. Esqour appealed to the various private and voluntary organisations in the country to offer whatever contributions they can to help care for the handicapped persons.

Expatriates' savings in Kuwait trickle to Amman

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (J.T.) — Signs of Kuwaiti banks beginning to transfer funds to Jordanians who worked in the emirate before the war emerged Tuesday with reports that the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) began disbursing money equivalent to 4,000 Kuwaiti dinars in any currency.

An official at the Arab Bank Ltd. in Amman told the Jordan Times Wednesday that some transfers were trickling to the main branch downtown since Saturday, but the number did not exceed 20 beneficiaries.

A response from the management of Jordan Kuwait Bank was that transfer of funds was due any day after having received confirmed reports that the NBK's London branch was disbursing money to those beneficiaries who requested to have their savings in Kuwait transferred to various banks in London.

The management of Jordan Kuwait Bank expected receiving funds requested by Jordanians to be cashed in Amman within the coming week.

Similarly, Jordanian clients of Cairo Amman Bank (CAB), who filed for their funds through the Gulf Bank of Kuwait, should expect their savings back not later than May 12, according to CAB official.

The CAB official said that the funds may come through branches of Kuwaiti banks in London, Bahrain or Abu Dhabi and not necessarily from NBK London.

Jordan, Yemen to cooperate in energy

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Yemeni delegation led by Mathar Al Saidi Wednesday concluded talks with officials at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and announced that Yemen planned to benefit from Jordan's experience in the exploitation of natural gas at Al Rishe fields and the generation of electric power.

"Jordan has made good achievements in these fields and Yemen is looking forward to joint cooperation that can serve as a nucleus for greater Arab cooperation in this field," Dr. Saidi said in a statement at the final meeting held with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taber following a three-day visit to Jordan.

Close cooperation between Yemen and Jordan in natural gas and electric power production is inevitable, particularly in view of the special relationship between the two countries, said Dr. Saidi.

He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after the meeting, that he had extended an invitation to Jordan to dispatch a team of experts in electricity and gas to visit Yemen

and follow up discussions on a specified formula for cooperation and speed up the implementation of joint enterprises on which initial agreement had been reached in the Amman talks, Dr. Saidi said.

Mr. Taber reviewed with the Yemeni delegation the outcome of the talks and prospects for embarking on immediate cooperation in energy-related fields, according to Petra.

Mr. Taber referred to previous technical assistance in power generation, offered to Yemen, and expressed his ministry's readiness to offer further help. He said that Jordan had acquired extensive experience in the field of exploiting natural gas, in generating power and in prospecting for oil, and Yemen can count on Jordan's assistance in any of these fields.

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Kamal Arafeh, who attended the meeting, presented a briefing on JEA's programmes and past cooperation with Yemen. JEA carried out a number of projects in Yemen related to power generation and distribution of power to Yemeni cities, and now the

two sides plan to agree on a number of other similar projects. "Yemen can count on Jordan's experience in power generation and the use of natural gas to produce electricity in the Maareb district of Yemen, a project similar to one carried out in Jordan," Mr. Arafeh.

Another project, he said, concerns the joint production of power meters and power distribution transformers, and the two sides will conduct studies for promoting their power systems.

Natural Resources Authority (NRA) Director General Kamal Jreizat told the Yemeni side that his department was willing to launch cooperation with the concerned Yemeni authorities in oil and gas prospecting.

"The NRA, which operates the gas fields and explores for oil in Jordan, has acquired extensive skills and capabilities which it places at Yemen's disposal," he said.

Mr. Jreizat said that the NRA now possesses four oil rigs that can dig as deep as 5000 feet, and 400 employees, engineers and geologists who can do the work in Yemen as well as in Jordan.

Zarqa people donate money for People's Army

AMMAN (J.T.) — A committee set up in Zarqa Governorate to raise funds in support of the People's Army and the Iraqi people has collected JD 31,000 which was presented Wednesday to Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Mr. Ibrahim Taki-eddine, a member of the committee and member of the Upper House of Parliament, delivered the sum to the prime minister, in his office, and the prime minister immediately referred the contribution to the army headquarters to be used as part of a fund financing the recruitment and training of the People's Army.

Mr. Badran voiced the government's deep appreciation of the committee's efforts and the contribution that came from the people in Zarqa Governorate, and said that the donation reflected the "awareness and the true cohesion among members of the Jordanian family, particularly under the present circumstances and in the wake of the Gulf war."

"Through this cohesion we can overcome all the difficulties that are confronting Jordan," the

prime minister said at the meeting.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the sum would augment a special fund set up for the training of the People's Army to finance the purchase of equipment and enhancing the People's Army capabilities to serve as a back-up for the regular armed forces.

Donations for the People's Army increased during the Gulf crisis and the armed forces set up training centres in various governorates.

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Victims of crisis

AMONG THE principal victims of the Gulf war are the some quarter of a million Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates who have literally lost all they have worked for over the years. The greater majority of those expatriates were born and reared in Kuwait or in the other Arab states of the Gulf.

Many of them are second or even third generation expatriates who know no country other than the Gulf state where they earned their livelihood and contributed to the development of these countries. Under normal conditions, the majority of these displaced people would be entitled to citizenship rights. Under current international norms, the states where such people have established their domicile for decades would owe them responsibility for their welfare and continued well being. Instead of shouldering such responsibility, the Gulf states, are literally dumping them back on Jordan where they have neither homes nor employment opportunities. In these trying times in the country, when the Jordanian economy is trying desperately to cope with the multiplying economic and fiscal woes, the sudden arrival of so many expatriates is posing a burden that the fragile structure of the country can ill afford. Over and above the bread and butter issues, the natural resources of the country — be they water, housing, food and services — cannot handle such multitudes of returning expatriates. Instead of facing the massive migration of hundreds of thousands of people to their homeland after many decades of separation, the Gulf states should reconsider their posture on this human tragedy and do everything possible to reintegrate them once again in their traditional places of life and livelihood.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile." It is all intents and purposes the expatriates have become "exiles" in their own Arab homeland.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) states that "everyone lawfully within the territory of a state shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence." The same international human rights instrument stipulates that an alien lawfully in the territory of a state party may be expelled only in pursuance of a decision reached in accordance with law and any such decision has the right to appeal such a deportation order. These rules are now part and parcel of the customary international law and the Arab Gulf states are bound by them.

It is not the legality of the issue that we are arguing here. Rather, it is the attitude of Arabs towards fellow Arabs, and the humanitarian dimension of the problem as well as its economic impact that is the issue now. The least that one would expect is to offer the expatriates a free choice as to where they would like to make their homes and earn their livelihoods especially after acquiring rights in the Gulf states. The expatriates are in effect people who have been expelled or deported in an arbitrary manner and denied the right to return to their legal domiciles under international law. The much acclaimed new order that the victorious countries in the Gulf war have heralded with much fanfare would remain hollow and a prescription for instability and insecurity in the entire area as long as it facilitates the expulsion of people en masse — directly or indirectly — as has happened in the wake of the Gulf crisis and the war that followed.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ongoing diplomatic efforts worldwide clearly aim to achieve peace in the Middle East and to defuse the causes of tension so that nothing can stand in the way of the promised new world order which envisages a better world for people everywhere, said Al Rai's Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper referred to the expected meeting between the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and the United States; and the Soviet-French summit in Moscow and said that these contacts during which the Arab-Israeli conflict had been discussed or will be discussed can only reflect the international community's desire to deal once and for all with the problem that had plagued the Middle East and the whole world. It seems, after all, that Europe will not be excluded from any negotiations for peace and that it will play a basic role in the coming peace conference and will participate in giving guarantees for a just and durable peace based on UN Security Council resolutions, the paper continued. The daily said that only Israel stands alone as the party that is rejecting all peace bids and opposing the implementation of the council resolutions. It will be left for Washington in cooperation with the international community to see to it that the Zionists succumb to the world's will and comply with the requirements of the new world order which envisages justice and stability in the Middle East region, the paper added. It said that the world can by no means tolerate further procrastinations in the peace process nor can Washington accept further erosion of its credibility.

Al Dastoor, for its part, referred to the Soviet foreign minister's visit to the Middle East which starts Wednesday, and said that it comes at the climax of the strenuous efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The paper said that the Soviet minister's tour precedes that of the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and can only complement it, since the two superpowers seem to be determined to achieve a headway in the peace process. The paper said that the current diplomatic efforts can be described as yet the most intensive at the international level to break the deadlock in the peace process; and this gives cause for optimism that the world community will after all do something meaningful to embark on the first step that would lead to peace. We view the Soviet foreign minister's visit to the region as a cause for optimism that Moscow will be assuming a greater role that would enhance the cause of peace, and we also hope that the Soviet Union will remain committed to the principles to which it has been adhering and the objectives which it has been trying to achieve, the paper added.

The Gulf war and censorship

FOLLOWING the U.S. war in Vietnam, the U.S. Government claimed that television coverage had thwarted its policy by showing an accurate picture of the horror of war, thereby sapping the morale of the public at home. The underlying issue this raises is an important one: are governments at war justified in censoring media coverage in order to ensure continued support for the war, or does democracy necessarily mean that the public is entitled to know what its government is doing (short of access to information which would endanger national security or the safety of troops) even during war time?

Article 19 firmly believes that democracy cannot flourish where there is unnecessary interference with the free flow of information, and that the need for accurate information is particularly pressing during times of war.

During the course of the Gulf war governments placed severe restrictions on reporting on all aspects of the war, and the public's right to know was compromised. Article 19 is acutely concerned that the coalition militaries were allowed to filter and mould information in order to achieve their own objectives. It is in the public interest to have the narrowest possible restrictions on information, and it is also the right of the public, in whose name the war was fought, to have timely and accurate information. It is precisely in times of emergency that there needs to be a redoubled commitment to freedom of information in order to guarantee government accountability and respect for human rights. Despite the undoubted need for security in order to protect life, the right to know should also be strongly protected.

The United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights allows for derogation during periods of war. Restriction on the free flow of information, however, may be imposed only if strictly necessary to protect national security and not just to "win the war at home."

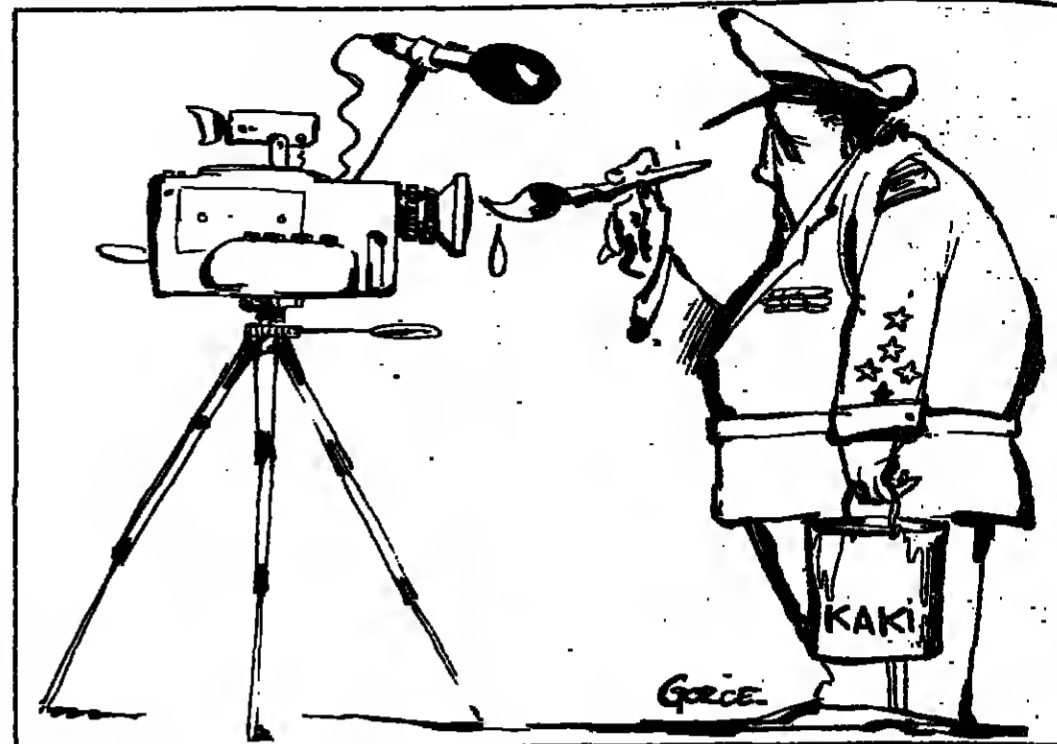
Article 19 acknowledges that this is an extremely difficult area, made even more so by the imprecision of the international guidelines which govern the flow of information in situations of armed conflict. Detailed discussion is needed in order to develop international standards so that the exigencies of armed conflict do not obliterate the freedoms contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Without effective international guidelines governments appear only too ready to impose blanket restrictions on access to information. It is known that sanctions were imposed, such as confiscation of equipment of journalists who did not abide by the ground rules and, in some cases, even recommended deportation. Journalists unwilling to sign the guidelines were not selected by the military to go on special assignments, and access to the front was controlled. Journalists' reports took up to three days to be cleared by the military censors. The system thus allowed extensive opportunities for the military to shape news, and this is where abuses accrued.

Censorship ranged from the imposed constraints of "pool" journalism, for instance the detention of a New York Times journalist and confiscation of his press credentials after he interviewed local residents in a small border town in Saudi Arabia, to self-

censorship like that imposed by the BBC which withdrew from their scheduled programmes which might have been considered insensitive or of questionable taste. It also issued to its smaller radio stations a list of 67 songs considered "sensitive" including "Light My Fire," "Sailing," "Killing Me Softly." Instances of censorship took place not only in Gulf and Coalition countries but also in other countries where demonstrations and meetings were banned and the press was censored (for example in Pakistan, Turkey, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya).

Many journalists feel that the opportunity to impartially record what happened in the Gulf has been lost; since almost all news came from military sources, independent reporting was virtually impossible and some of the most respected war photographers, including Don McCullin, were not given pool credentials to cover front line activities. Article 19 interviewed a senior CNN reporter who left Saudi Arabia because she believed that it was not possible to cover the war with any integrity. The correspondent, who had been in Saudi Arabia since 12 August 1990, reported that only journalists who had signed an agreement to abide by U.S. Defence Department restrictions on coverage of the war were chosen to work in military assigned pools; attempts to move independently were impeded by military roadblocks; she had been accompanied constantly, even to the bathroom, on board the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy, in an effort to prevent any unsupervised conversations with pilots. She and many international journalists were lodged in a hotel in Riyadh from the out-



break of the war and were entirely dependent on military personnel for transportation and access to news.

The use of propaganda and disinformation by all parties during the Gulf war has been widespread and effective in achieving its purposes. The coalition forces succeeded in giving and maintaining the impression that this was a "clean" war in which the use of hi-tech weapons resulted in negligible human casualties. In order to promote this perception wide use was made in press briefings of video film demonstrating the accuracy of the new weapons, military spokespersons avoided discussion of the human cost of the war and a new kind of jargon was introduced (using phrases such as "collateral damage" for civilian

casualties). In spite of the fact that up to 100,000 Iraqi soldiers and an unknown number of civilians may have been killed in the hostilities there has been little coverage in the media of the horrifying and "unpalatable" aspects of the war.

The true facts of the Gulf war and the extent of disinformation, propaganda and concealing of facts on all sides of the conflict will emerge only over time and perhaps even then only partially. The scale of the atrocities perpetrated by Iraqi troops in Kuwait, the extent of coalition bombing of civilian targets in Iraq and the true nature and circumstances surrounding the environmental threats caused by the oil slick in the Gulf are just some of the issues which need clarification.

An Article 19 report is being prepared, for publication towards the end of 1991, which will attempt to analyse these issues and will also include reports of censorship which are not yet in the public domain. With the end of hostilities Article 19 calls for information hitherto undisclosed to be made freely available.

Article 19 has published an initial compilation of incidents of censorship which occurred during the course of the Gulf war. Stop Press: The Gulf War and Censorship is available from Article 19 priced £3.00.

ARTICLE 19, the International Centre Against Censorship, is based in London and monitors freedom of expression world-wide

Arabs must recognise Israel is a theocracy

By Ramez Maluf

ALTHOUGH the relation of religion to state is central to the problem pitting Arabs against Israelis, this commonplace fact is routinely disregarded in all and any peace initiatives.

The importance of religion in the Middle East is a truism. Islam is the official religion in most Arab countries and its role is enshrined in their constitutions. In Israel, Judaism is an intrinsic feature of the state without which the country as a whole loses significance. Known formally and informally as the "Jewish state," Israel derives its legitimacy from its Biblical beliefs. Indeed, Israel was created to accommodate a certain perception of a religious community. A manifestation of the role of religion in Israel is the fact that a head of state need not be born in the country as long as he or she be a Jew. In no other country can the head of state be a native of another country.

Despite some differences, the argument can be made that the role of religion in Israel and in a number of Arab states is similar. Judaism dominates in Israel while Islam dominates in countries like Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and soon, perhaps, in Algeria. But there is also a fundamental difference.

In the Arab World, Islam has been the dominant force in the social fabric for centuries and this is reflected in the nature of the

states in the region. However, political debate in the Arab World constantly questions the role of religion in the affairs of the state, and while there is a strong Islamist trend in many countries, this is a reaction to an equally strong secularist trend.

The forces of modernity in the Arab World, supported by liberal and progressive-minded people everywhere, believe in separating the role of church and state. This is seen as a move that would endow religious minorities with equal rights and offer citizens the rule of rational law, while allowing individuals to pursue their own faith unmolested by the state. In a secular state, Sunni, Shia, Christians, Bahais, Jews and all others would be equal before the law. Much of the Arab World is grappling with secularism and many of those who support this movement believe that religion must be placed within its proper context, in the realm of individual choice. In some Arab states religious equality is at least guaranteed by the constitution, and its adoption is actual practice cannot be long in coming.

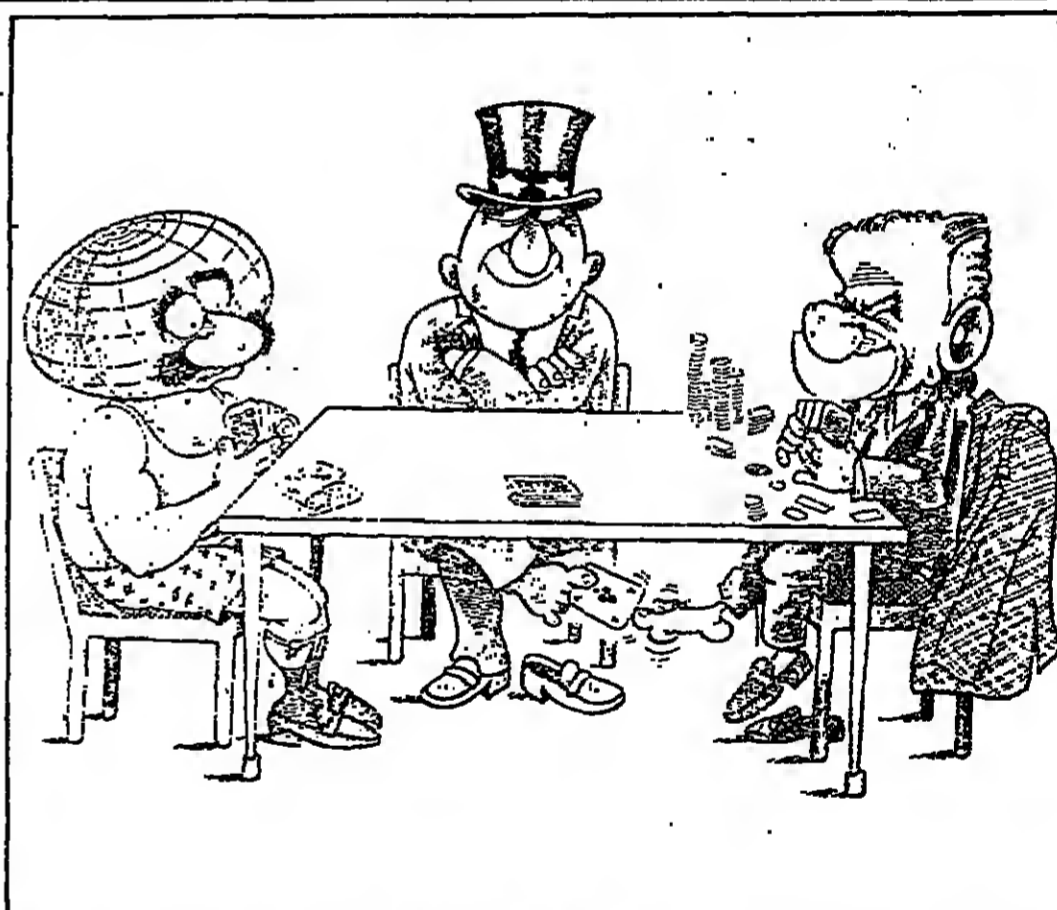
But what of the role of religion in Israel? There the situation is totally different.

In Israel there is not and there cannot ever be a genuine secular trend. Israel — by definition — is a "Jewish state" where Christian

and Muslim citizens do not share an equal status with Jewish citizens. While the rest of the world moves towards secularism, Israel is reinforcing its religious character. The creation of a state where Christian, Jew and Muslim are all equal is, in the end, a proposal which forms part of the PLO programme and not a part of Israel's.

Interestingly, the West, which traditionally lauds secularism and the separation of church and state, reinforces the Jewish state in its archaic obstinacy. It glorifies Israel's blatant theocracy as a democracy and it behaves as if Israel is spearheading modernisation in the Arab World while the opposite is true. Indeed, by backing and strengthening a constitutionally and fundamentally Jewish state in the region, the West is helping to strengthen a religious backlash in the area. This fact cannot have escaped the attention of policy strategists in Washington and London.

In the end this approach is doomed to failure, for one of two reasons. Like it or not, Israel is surrounded by a Muslim people. The Jewish state has taken over their land and confiscated their holy city of Jerusalem. Whatever explanation Jews may offer to them, for Muslims, Palestine is their land and Jerusalem is a



sacred spot where the Prophet Isa, or Christ, was born, and where the Prophet Mohammad ascended to Heaven.

If Jews offer them no choice, then Muslims will continue to fight until they restore this land. It may take years or decades, but if Israel turns it into a religious war, it cannot but lose. Theocracies which vie for the same holy land cannot live in neighbourly peace.

The other alternative is that Israel develop a secular option, a vision of a state where all reli-

gions are equal. Were this to happen, secularism would be strengthened throughout the region. Unfortunately, this is not at all under consideration by anyone in the Jewish state. Israeli leaders have chosen the path of confrontation.

Harbingers of peace who visit the region must take the above into consideration in their discussions. The modern world, and those who claim to champion its causes in a "new world order" should not, hypocritically, support theocracies and treat them as

if they were liberal states. If they do so, no matter how many times they visit the area, as U.S. Secretary James Baker must know by now, they will return empty-handed. If Israel chooses to treat the issue of the occupied territories by quoting from the Bible, then bringing peace to Palestine will be like squaring the circle — a mission impossible.

Ramez Maluf is the editor-in-chief of the Middle East Times from where the article is reprinted.

Iraqi Kurds: Refugees in their own home?

By Ghazi Saadi

THE eruption of the Kurdish revolt in north Iraq was not a surprise for observers of the Middle East political scene. The U.S.-led allied forces in the Gulf have welcomed that revolt and its subsequent suppression by the Iraqi army as they were in need of some radical events to divert attention from the catastrophic consequences of their destructive war against Iraq.

That war ended with more than 150,000 Iraqis dead, mostly troops killed at allied air raids on the retreating Iraqi army — a cold blooded slaughter. It is said that some allied pilots refused to carry out orders, because it was contrary to military honour to attack retreating soldiers who could not defend themselves. Initially in the war, the allied

air forces systematically destroyed Iraq's industrial capabilities and its civil life's infrastructure. Iraq virtually lost in this war what it has built throughout its modern history.

Questions on the necessity of this futile war were raised worldwide during and immediately after the fighting. Peace groups from all over the world started to prepare to help Iraq, and demanded that the suffering of Iraqi people should end. But the tragic events in the south and in the north of Iraq halted all these efforts, as the world's attention through Western media reports shifted to the plight of the Kurdish refugees.

Kurds dispersed in Persia, Turkey and Iraq were used in the 1960s and 70s by the Shah of Iran to launch a covert war against the Baghdad government. From 1958 to 1975 Iraq

lost around 104,000 soldiers and civilians in that war. As a result of that insurgency Iraq was forced to accept all Iranian conditions as specified in the 1975 accord between the two countries. Vast concessions in territory and water rights were given to Iran to stop supporting the Kurdish revolt. That revolt collapsed in 1975 and its leaders fled the country.

Today's troubles, however, are more destructive to the Iraqi Kurdish community. Kurds are now being transformed from a productive community to an unsettled one; similar to that in Afghanistan.

The establishment of refugee camps to settle Kurds, and to keep them away from their cities and villages, will make war and insurgency the only source and way of living for the young generations of

Kurds. Non-fighting elements in these camps will sit idle without work. Children will not have education. A whole generation of Kurds will be lost. (Palestinians experienced such a tragedy after 1948).

After several years of idleness and frustration, people cannot resume normal working and productive life.

To allow such camps to flourish in the north of Iraq will end with conditions armed continuous armed conflicts which would not only engulf Iraq, but Iran, Turkey, the Soviet Union, and even Syria.

Iraq will only look at its Kurdish population as stooges for foreign occupying troops. Suspicion and mistrust between the two sides will foil any attempt at solving the Kurdish problem on peaceful, democratic and human basis.

The Kurdish problem can only be treated as an integral part of Iraq's overall dilemma and tragedy. The absence of democracy is the main cause behind the long suffering of all Iraqis in the past few decades.

The instigation of local troubles and civil wars will only hinder the movement towards democracy, in Iraq.

The allies are imposing more suffering on the Iraqi people in their quest to punish President Saddam Hussein. This policy is backfiring and will exactly result in a counter effect. It is practically consolidating the Baghdad regime.

Iraqis and Arabs mistrust the West. President Hussein earned wide popular support before and during the war by challenging the Western interests in the area, and by attacking Western hypocrisy and double standards in deal-

ing with Arabs. Any popularity he lost as a result of his defeat in the war, he will regain anew.

Every effort should be done to enable Kurds to go back to their homes, in north Iraq. Refugee camps must be dismantled and foreign troops should leave all parts of Iraq. Iraq has suffered enough from foreign intervention. Iraqis should be given the chance to solve their problems and rebuild their country and choose their leadership on their own.

To transform Kurds and Shi'ites of Iraq to refugees in their own country is the last thing they need from the West.

Mr. Saadi, currently an investment consultant, is a former head of the Ministry of Information's foreign press bureau. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Weekender

April 9, 1991

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Arab-Americans look to the future

By Philippa Neave
WHITE PLAINS — When a group of Arab-Americans gathered recently in a New York City suburb to discuss "The Arab-American family: Dealing With Change," they had their eyes firmly fixed on the future. The 150 participants, representing several Middle Eastern countries dedicated their symposium to their children.

Top professionals of Arab origin gathered for the day-long session at Pace University, located in this suburb some 50 kilometres north of Manhattan. Most of the participants immigrated to the United States about two decades ago, and their children were born here. For many families the challenge is to reconcile the American way of life with the religious and cultural heritage of the Arab World. "As a group, Arab-Americans have more or less adjusted to life in the U.S.," said conference organiser Fikry Andrawes, from Egypt. "No other ethnic group has done as well."

But, Andrawes stressed, although the Arab community in the U.S. is one of the best educated and prosperous, it has failed to organise into an effective political force, and Middle Easterners have generally kept a low profile in politics and public life. Andrawes, who is president of the Egyptian-American Professionals Society, sponsor of the symposium, explained: "There are 3 million Arab-Americans, and politically they are very passive. It is a shame, all you get is anger, we are poor at doing anything constructive... Part of the reason is discrimination. When they first come, many Arabs hide their origins, they don't want to stand up and say they are 'Arabs'."

Arab-American groups have increased in number and visibility, in particular

the Washington, D.C.-based National Association of Arab-Americans. Other community-based organisations have sprung up around the country, setting up self-help groups, cultural and religious societies and language programmes.

Nevertheless, Andrawes said, compared with other groups that have a long tradition of aggressive lobbying, many Arabs still have not come to grips with the open ways of American society and the workings of American-style democracy. Many, he added, still retain reflexes from the past that tend to make them avoid public political debate.

This very theme — adapting to a new way of life — was the core of the discussions that unfolded at Pace, tackling such topics as the conflict of two cultures, religion and raising children. Many of the speakers, who included a sociologist, a writer, several business people, an attorney and community service professionals, stressed the need to let go of the past.

Many of the participants dwelled on the difficulty of reconciling their traditions and beliefs with the values of a system that is almost diametrically opposed to that heritage. The problem is particularly acute for Muslim families, for whom the permissiveness of American society may be shocking.

Said Fady Hajal, originally from Lebanon and now a psychiatrist at Cornell Medical Centre, "we (parents) may be at risk of clinging onto structures and mental patterns that could be holdovers from the past when it comes to family life and child-rearing. We talking about Arab culture as though it were static and yet we may not be aware of all the changes going on in Arab society. We must take care

not to idealise our culture out of a sense of loss."

Panel member Hassan Hathout, advisor to the Islamic Centre of Southern California, in Pasadena, was bombarded with questions from parents eager for advice on how to raise children in American society and yet instill in them religious faith and respect for the culture of their ancestors.

Parents were especially concerned about teenagers dating and premarital sex. The Islamic expert's advice was clear: "It is not enough to say that the Koran says no. I believe in justice and the equality of the sexes. In a liberated society like this one, the consequences are not equally shared. The female partner is always the loser. Can this be justice?"

Although many of the participants had to adapt to life in the United States as immigrants, their children who were born in this country seem at ease with their dual identity. "The melting-pot theory of America has worked much better for me than for my parents," said 15-year-old Sandra Abdul Sayed, who was born here and was brought up speaking Arabic at home. "I like the fact that I'm Egyptian, I have more knowledge of other cultures. That, and being bilingual, gives people something to look up to you for. At the same time, I am also American, and in that way I get privileges that I otherwise wouldn't have." When it comes to morals and sex, the high-school student, who lives outside Washington, D.C., was also clear: "Sex before marriage doesn't have much to do with religion or culture. You shouldn't sleep with every boyfriend because you shouldn't give yourself away easily, and you can catch diseases. The safest sex is marriage."

Neither does her younger



For the young generation, melding into the American population is no problem, but like Sandra Abdul Sayed and her brother, Mina, these youths are proud of their roots.

brother Mina, 14, seem to have an identity problem.

"Being a mixture is not a disadvantage. Everybody in America is mixed up anyway," he said. He seemed to voice the feelings of other youngsters. In contrast, their parents, who arrived in a wave of Arab immigrants during the political turmoil that followed the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, felt that as a group Arabs were discriminated against. "We faced a major challenge because we were always branded with negative images by the media and other groups. Arab rhymed with terrorist," said Egyptian-born Ahmad Massoud, who arrived in the United States as a teenager. "The pressure was always on to wipe out my historical background."

Added Hossam Fakhr, a translator at the United Nations and a novelist, "Growing up in a society that bombards you with contempt for your culture, your values and

way of life is a painful experience. But it is up to us to reconcile the fact that our children are American but that they have also inherited a rich and wonderful culture. We have to avoid letting the American dream turn into an Arab nightmare."

Many of the participants, as top professionals, recognised that America is a place where skills lead to prosperity and satisfaction. Said Andrawes, "The people at this conference are a fraction of the community. They have been here for a while and are now above middle-class; they can afford the luxury of introspection."

This is not always the case for the latest wave of Arab immigrants, many of whom are young, single men who are fleeing economic hardship and political unrest. Many are unskilled or eke out a living in menial jobs. Most of the hot-dog vendors on the corners of Manhattan's streets are from the Middle East. "We're all illeg-

al," said Karim, a 32-year-old from Cairo who runs a food stand at a busy midtown intersection. "It is hard here, but I still make more money than I did in Cairo."

Future immigrants may find it more difficult to come to America if they have no specific skills. In 1990 a new immigration bill was passed that aims to attract highly skilled workers to fill the gaps left by America's fast-aging population. This policy has long been implemented by Canada. "Since the late sixties, the education and occupational qualifications of Arab-Canadians has exceeded the national average. This is a highly literate and educated group," said Baba Abu Laban, who teaches sociology at Canada's Alberta University. "A large proportion of recent immigrants to Canada are also educated, advanced professionals. They are rejuvenating the ethnic identity of the community."

— World News Link.

book reviews

Precise and measured assessment

A History Of The Arab Peoples
 By Albert Hourani
 Faber and Faber, London 1991, £25.00

When a scholar of Albert Hourani's eminence produces a history of the Arab Peoples, it would be foolish to look for a chronological narrative of the 13 centuries since they emerged from the Arabian peninsula and swiftly conquered a great part of the then known world. In fact I am not sure that the title is not rather misleading. Is this impressive book not really a history of Arab civilisation, and thus to a considerable extent of Islam? Its only illustration is the cover picture of an Egyptian mosque lamp.

Of course Hourani distinguishes very clearly between Arabism and Islam, and writes briefly on Islamic origins in a way which will cause many of his readers to hope that he will one day address himself directly to this subject. Meanwhile he offers us what is primarily a series of detailed and illuminating portraits of the Arab World at successive stages of its development.

The vast territories under Arab rule in the Middle Ages were never organised in a single imperial structure. This, or something approaching it, had to wait for the expansion of Ottoman rule in the 15th and 16th centuries. Culturally, however, the Arabs had created a large measure of homogeneity over the whole area of their conquests, and this continued in the Arab provinces of the empire after their political subordination. Its highest achievements are impressively symbolised in the surviving architectural splendours of Damascus, Jerusalem, Cairo and, beyond Ottoman reach, of Fez and the cities of Andalusia.

The shell of the empire, "the last great expression of the universality of the world of Islam," had been growing steadily more fragile when it was finally smashed as a result of the Turkish decision to join the Central powers in World War I. After the peace this led inevitably to the predominance of British and French influence in the Fertile Crescent. Hourani does not follow the writers who have lamented the failure of the ex-Ottoman territories to escape European tutelage and somewhat improbably supposed that there could have been an alternative evolution towards closer Arab unity over the next three decades. Anglo-French rivalry was not the only or even the principal factor in the disunity which still characterises the political structure of this area. (Long after Europe can reasonably be blamed, the Ba'ath party, which originated as a movement towards unification, has itself become a powerful divisive force.)

In one respect certainly, through the creation of the Israel, Western influences had an important negative effect on Arab development. But it seems probable that in the absence of these influences it would still have been necessary to admit that "an observer of the Arab countries in the 1980s would have found societies in which the ties of culture, strong and perhaps growing stronger as they were, had not given rise to political unity."

This book is distinguished by its cool, precise and measured tone. Just once it seemed to me that moderation had been carried to excess, if that is not a contradiction in terms, when the United States government in the 1940s is said to have been "inclined to use its influence in favour of the Zionist demands for immigration and statehood" — Middle East International.

By Harold Beeley

Out on a limb

By Liesi Graz

Women At Work In the Gulf: A Case Study Of Bahrain

By Munira A. Fakhro
 Kegan Paul International, London 1990, £45

In between many statistics (most of them unfortunately, but perhaps inevitably, from the very early 1980s), Munira Fakhro occasionally goes out on a brave limb. She calls the Bahraini government to task for its labour policies, not only towards women, but also in using the influx of foreign workers to maintain tight political control over its own people.

She attempts, in a few terse pages, one of the few written descriptions of the complicated strata of Bahraini society, divided as it is between urban and rural, Sunni and Shi'ite. She even embarks on an analysis of why it is difficult to reconcile the kind of schooling needed for a technologically advanced society with the insistence of Islamic underpinnings for the educational system. As a member of the Bahraini establishment, Munira Fakhro is particularly well placed not only to analyse but to chide and plead: she does both. One caveat: what possible excuse is there for a slim book. (204 pages including bibliography, notes and index) without illustration or lavish production to cost £45.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

Victory belongs to the most persevering
 — Napoleon Bonaparte, French general-statesman (1769-1821).

There is nothing wrong with Ireland except that it is Irish, and there is nothing wrong with England except that it is not Irish

— George Bernard Shaw, Irish-born writer (1856-1950).
 Humility is the solid foundation of all the virtues
 Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551 B.C. - 479 B.C.)

Young French people's favourite leisure activities

By Patrick Olivier

PARIS — Childhood and adolescence are dominated by curiosity, discovering the world and the desire to learn, but also by the needs of identification characteristic of that age, and by a taste for escape, and relaxation.

From all these points of view, modern life offers young people a fantastic array of new means which they use intensively. This is shown in a recent survey carried out among 3,000 children between 10 and 16.

First of all, there is obviously television which opens a window on the world with its infinite supply of pictures, quenching their thirst for knowledge, feeding their imaginations and entertaining them. It is the favourite leisure activity of all age categories (8-10, 11-13, and 14-16), boys and girls together. They spend an average of 2 hours a day in front of the screen.

What is striking is that they use it intelligently and sensibly. Their relation to television is objective and selective. They do not switch on their sets without knowing which programme they are going to watch or without consulting the television guide and, very often, they play their own cassettes.

If the youngest viewers prefer cartoons, their tastes quickly evolve and 14 to 16 year olds enjoy documentaries, fiction and variety-shows. These satisfy their curiosity, but also, with the heroes of films and singers, fulfil their



Music is one of the favourite leisure activities of French youth. Forty per cent of these youth play a musical instrument.

need for identification. Music is the second favourite leisure activity and the explosion of audiovisual techniques favours listening to the maximum. Four children out of five have cassettes. Right from the age of 8-10 they already have about twenty records and a dozen cassettes. The taste for music simply develops with age (14-16), particularly among girls. Playing and, above all, listening to music then becomes the favourite leisure activity, even ahead of television.

Forty per cent of young

people play a musical instrument. One young person in ten belongs to a group of musicians or singers. Naturally attending a musical performance at that young age remains a rather rare event, whether it be classical music or a rock concert, but they are avid consumers of all the musical media: The radio, which they listen to every day, and cassettes which they have recorded. They are keen readers of the musical press and its articles on their favourite singers or groups. They are television's most

assiduous video-clip viewers. Young people are not bookworms. They by far prefer new technologies: 39 per cent teenagers have already used a minitel teletext system. 50 per cent prefer video games and 65 per cent can use a micro-computer. However, reading is a leisure activity appreciated by many: 40 per cent make it their favourite pastime and 75 per cent say they like reading. They expect entertainment and escape from books, but also to learn things from them. Favourite themes are

animals and nature, and tales and legends for the youngest, and novels, history and encyclopaedias for the older ones.

Girls read far more than boys. For 14 to 16 year olds, 53 per cent of girls read a lot compared with 27 per cent of boys. It should be noted that television addicts (24 per cent) who spend more than three and a half hours a day in front of the box, are also most often keen readers. It is interesting to note that the youngest (8-10) get the greatest pleasure from read-

ing while the pleasure somewhat decreases with age. Here one can see the effects of school and the compulsory reading of books on the syllabus. From being a pleasure, reading becomes a chore, a point for teachers to ponder on.

Yet, the cultural rôle of schools is great. Thanks to school, children have access to all the cultural activities. It is in the framework of school that most children visited a museum or discovered theatre: 60 per cent saw plays in their schools.

School also opens up the most traditional and most universal leisure activity among the young: Sport (66 per cent of 10-16 year olds practise a sport). If, thanks to the development of sport in modern life (enormous media-coverage, accelerated democratisation, and the multiplication of the possibilities), many young people have a racquet, a bicycle, a skate-board or a pair of skis, often paid for by themselves it is thanks to school that most of them, for both boys and girls, can indulge in their passion for shared sports. The most widely practised sports are group sports for boys (football, etc.) and individual activities for girls (athletics, gymnastics and swimming). Above all, sports meet the need for physical relaxation. Competition only concerns 10 per cent of young people and only in the particular case of football.

It seems that the French will always prefer exercising their minds to exercising their bodies! — L'Actualité En France.

The Taxi Ride

By Maha Addasi

NOTHING is more relaxing than taking a taxi to downtown Amman. No trip is ever smoother or so "unrushed."

I am sure you love that roller-coaster ride with no seatbelt restricting you, because it is so conveniently broken.

You are sitting back and the car is going so fast you are glued to the seat even without the aids of a belt. What freedom you feel as the wind tries to blow you out of the car. But fortunately the doors do not open from the inside.

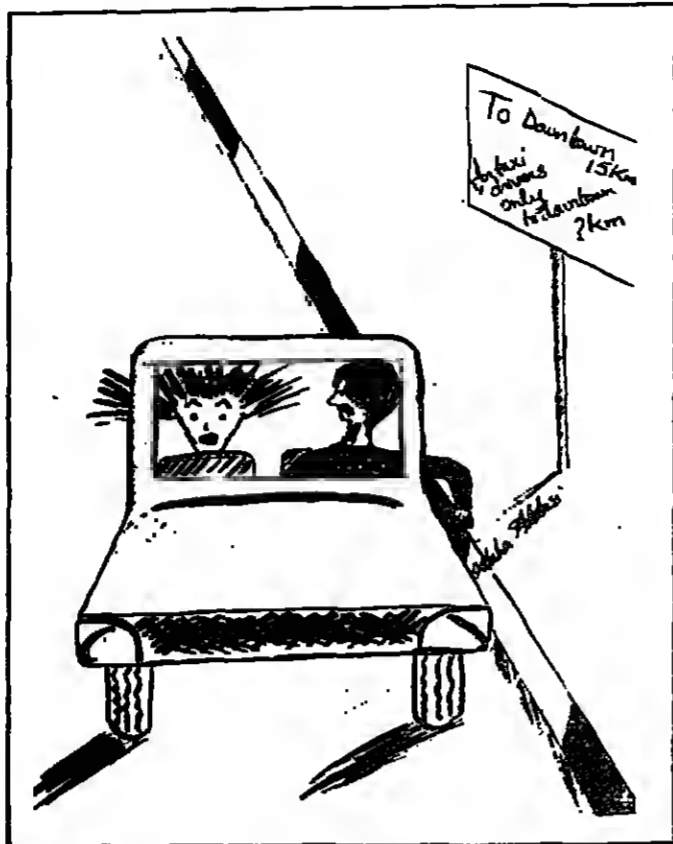
That is I do not know exactly why. Except perhaps so that no-one jumps out of the taxi at a red light. There is no reason for the passenger to do that though because he or she will be foregoing the chance to savour the "classical" music that usually blasts, I mean "hums" through the amplifiers.

And the way the taxi drivers always have to keep one hand gracefully banging outside the window and the other hand delicately pressing the horn, is so appealing. Taxi drivers become careful drivers as they check their mirrors before changing lanes. In fact they become such fantastic drivers that they look in the rear view mirror even if they do not want to change lanes.

Taxi drivers always make the best decisions when they want to transfer to pick up passengers. They always stop for the girl. Call it chivalry.

Of course, if you do not know the country well, and you do not know the shortest way to your destination, the driver can give you a "surprise" tour around the country, at a "small" expense paid by you. Not that you are ever left to get bored on such trips because the driver entertains you with all his family problems and tragedies as he carefully wizzes through traffic. Even if you do not answer the back, taxi drivers are so sensitive and never demanding that you talk. They often have enough to say to fill the silence.

And friendship means so much to these people. If they spot a colleague a mile away, they light up a cigarette from



the excitement and they race after him just to say hi. If it is winter and the windows are closed you choke, actually you "cough" a little. But that is ok.

Miraculously, you get to your destination and the poor driver usually does not have any change. Out of the kindness of your heart you let him keep the change!

Peace?

By Zeinab Nasser Bin Jamil

The memories rushed back to her, caressing her tenderly. She was thinking of the time when her daughter was only a year old, it was such a vivid memory that she could feel her tiny fingers curled around the collar of her dress. A tear fell from her eye, it rolled down her cheek and fell on the face of her dead child. A face that once was beautiful, so proud, so... alive. Ah! But this was the plight of the people beneath the ruling minorities; beneath the governments, this was the story of war. A horror story that will never be witnessed by the men who wage it upon each other, but will be fought by men who will die and suffer, who will leave people behind them to mourn; children they will never know, and a life they will leave unfinished.

This was the story of the ultimate pain, of the inexplicable pain. This child, her child, was now deprived of the one precious gift that all humans are given: the pursuit of her own special dream. She was deprived this gift by men she had never met, by men who had taken the very soul from her body.

Oh! how she wished it was a fast death, but it was a slow one, and she had suffered so much. The mother? She would have taken her to hospital but alas all the hospitals in the area had been bombed. The child lay there and bled to death in her mother's arms. First crying out in pain, and it was as if her mother had died with her piece by piece. Then the child's cries subsided and she began uttering her mother's name over and over again, softly, as if expecting

her to help as she had done throughout her childhood. But the mother could not help. Nobody could, as the child murmured her final plea, a small, faint, ghost smile crept along her pained face, as if a gesture of love to the woman who bore and loved her; the woman she was about to say goodbye to forever. Now... she sat alone, clinging to her dead child in the desolate ruins of what was once her house, with only a small wall to protect her from the blazing sun. She clung to the body of her child as she wept.

Meanwhile, at this very instant in another section of this war-stricken area there is a little boy who is six months old; he too is dying, but of starvation, his stomach is bloated in front of him, but he won't give up trying to wake up his parents who are lying side by side. He keeps saying "Mamma, Mamma," and crying softly. His parents, sure, are sound sleepers; didn't they hear the big "boom" and then the huge "crash"? As he gazes at them he wonders why they are covered in red paint.

But let us shift our attention somewhere else — at a big white horse with black iron gates and men surrounding it. Inside this house a man is luxuriously eating a big meal with his wife and children. Strange isn't it? His children are alive and full. On the phone the man is conducting peace negotiations.

The writer studies at the Amman Baccalaureate School. She wrote this on the occasion of the launching of the campaign for the protection of victims of war.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, May 9

1944 — Soviet forces liberate Sevastopol in the Crimea in World War II.

1946 — Italy's King Victor Emmanuel III abdicates and Umberto II proclaims himself king.

1955 — West Germany is admitted as a member of NATO.

1967 — India's Vice President Zakir Hussain is named president of India, becoming first Muslim to hold that office.

1968 — U.S. and North Vietnamese negotiators assemble in Paris for preliminary Vietnam peace talks.

1978 — Bullet-riddled body of Italy's former Prime Minister Aldo Moro is found in parked car in central Rome, 54 days after his abduction.

Friday, May 10

1796 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte defeats Austrians at Lodi in Italy campaign.

1857 — Sepoys revolt at Meerut, starting Indian mutiny against British rule.

1871 — Treaty of Frankfurt ends Franco-Prussian War, France cedes Alsace-Lorraine to Germany.

1875 — Religious orders are abolished in Russia.

1933 — Paraguay declares war on Bolivia.

1940 — Britain's Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigns in World War II, and Winston Churchill forms

government; Germany invades Holland, Luxembourg and Belgium.

1957 — Soviets appeal to United States and Britain to halt nuclear tests.

1967 — U.S. jet planes bomb power plants in North Vietnam's port of Haiphong for first time in Vietnam War.

1971 — Former Nazi Rudolf Hess finishes 30 years imprisonment, and Soviets insist he serve full life sentence in Berlin's Spandau Prison.

1972 — South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu declares state of martial law.

1976 — Israel announces plans to establish numerous additional settlements in occupied Arab territory.

1988 — United States vetoes U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel's invasion of southern Lebanon.

1990 — India's worst cyclone in 10 years kills 85 and floods 90 villages.

Saturday, May 11

1943 — U.S. forces land at Attu in Aleutian Islands in World War II. It is first American territory regained from Japan.

1949 — Israel is admitted to United Nations; Siam changes name to Thailand.

1971 — Temples at Angkor Wat are damaged by artillery fire in fighting between Cambodian government and Communist forces.

1973 — Lower house of

West German legislature ratifies treaty establishing formal relations between the two halves of divided Germany.

1975 — Laos Premier Souvanna Phouma virtually concedes Communist victory in his country.

1987 — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government imposes direct federal control on Punjab state due to continued violence by Sikh separatists.

Sunday, May 12

1689 — Britain and Holland join League of Augsburg, which becomes the Grand Alliance.

1881 — Bey of Tunis accepts French protectorate over North Borneo and Brunei.

1888 — Britain establishes protectorate over North Borneo and Brunei.

1897 — Turks defeat Greeks in Thessaly and major powers intervene in war.

1915 — Forces of South Africa's Louis Botha occupy Windhoek, capital of German South West Africa.

1926 — Josef Pilsudski stages coup in Poland.

1938 — Germany recognizes Emperor Manchukuo; Japanese warships capture Chinese island of Amoy.

1943 — Battle of North Africa ends in World War II with German surrender of Cap Bon in Tunisia.

1962 — South African general law amendment bill imposes death penalty for saboteurs.

1965 — West Germany establishes diplomatic relations with Israel, and Arab states break off relations with Bonn government.

1975 — United States announces that Cambodian naval ship has seized U.S. merchant ship Mayaguez in international waters 60 miles off Cambodian coast.

1988 — World Health Organisation says more than 34,000 AIDS cases have been reported worldwide.

1990 — At a Baltic summit, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania revive a 1934 political alliance, hoping a united front will crack Soviet resistance to the republics' attempts to break away from the Soviet Union.

Monday, May 13

1809 — French army under Napoleon Bonaparte takes Vienna.

1871 — Law of Guarantees in Italy declares Pope's person inviolable and allows him possession of the Vatican.

1968 — Peace negotiations officially open in Paris between United States and North Vietnam.

1970 — Israel attacks Lebanon to try wiping out guerrilla bases.

1988 — Riot police storm sacred Haram Al Sharif complex in Jerusalem and fire rubber bullets at Muslim worshippers.

By The Associated Press

Five kings

By E. Yaghi

ONCE upon a time many fantasies ago, there lived six kings who were each allotted a kingdom to govern. Five of these kingdoms surrounded the sixth and in them oppression prevailed and goblins, witches and demons stalked the land. Good folk were suppressed and cast under an evil spell.

The five kings were wealthy and greedy and their heavy hands ruled with hypocrisy and cruelty. With lust and envy they eyed the sixth country, plotting to destroy it and crush its leader. The leader, called Dark Knight, was very brave and famous throughout his land for dragon slaying. With precious black diamonds that were mined deep within the ground, he armed his soldiers and educated his people.

Perplexed just how to conquer their foe Dark Knight, the malevolent kings gathered themselves together in a secret summit. "We must destroy him," said one king who wore the emblem of a lion on his suit of armour. "We must summon all the witches and demons and consult them so they'll help us launch a plan."

Another king who pretended to be benevolent and rule by the law of his Maker, said, "Yes, Dark Knight has become too powerful. We must trample him and his armies and divide his country." As he spoke, the leopard's yellow eyes on his armour glared a wicked light.

A third king who's emblem was a wolf, said: "We have no time to waste. I say we sent a messenger to the Land of Dragons. They can help us fight and with our combined forces, Dark Knight will be defeated!"

To show his sincerity, the laughing cow jumped over the moon and the five kings vigorously clapped their hands while the dish ran away with the spoon.

Now at the time of the summit, there happened to be a tiny fairy who was flying by. Overhearing the five kings' mischievous plot, she fluttered away to warn Dark Knight. She asked for an audience with the fearless leader and when permission was granted, she flew into the knight's parlour panting with excitement. "I must warn you! You must flee quickly. Your neighbours, the five wicked kings, are sending a great army to fight you. They're calling in the flying dragons to help them! There's no chance you can win."

Dark Knight's expression grew grave. What could he do? Sadly he shook his head and said: "Thank you kind fairy for your wise advice, but I cannot run away. I am no coward! What would my people do without a leader? I shall not betray their trust. I will stay and fight my foes and my people and I will slay all the dragons!"

One stark winter day when the ground was still frozen, trees bare, honey bees sleeping and furry animals hibernating, the five kings sent their armies into the country of Dark Knight aided by witches, goblins and yes, flying dragons. Into the chill of desert winds, the invaders stormed into the helpless country killing innocent peasants.

Many young children and babies died. Many more were disfigured and struck with diseases. Fear and frustration intensified in the minds and hearts of Dark Knight's people but bravery had been inbred in them for hundreds of years. Cowardice was unknown to them and capitulation was a shame.

However, the peasant folk were no match for the ferocious flying dragons who with lightening speed attacked Dark Knight's villages, sending flames of fire down on the people and scorching everything in their path. After many bloody battles, Dark Knight's people were defeated and chaos and disorder ruled the land. The once good hearted people began to quarrel and bicker amongst themselves while the five kings jumped for joy and drew up plans on ways to further divide Dark Knight's country. After all, they must add the treasure of Dark Knight's black diamonds to their already overflowing riches.

Famine gripped Dark Knight's land. Even though the cannon smoke had cleared and the war wagons long since retracted, children were heard crying in the shadows of despair. Mothers scrounged for food but found little or none. Fathers and sons never returned from the war front. Pestilence and disease spread throughout and the once happy people with cheerful faces walked about in desolation and woe.

"Dark Knight has been defeated!" At first these words formed as whispers on the lips of his people, but then with time and contagious misery, the whispers turned into shouts and dank humiliation swept over the people like a plague. Those who had once cheered Dark Knight when they were sure of victory, now huddled in dark corners, voicing insinuations and criticisms. Dark Knight had been no match for the huge armies which had attacked him from all flanks or for the fierce flying dragons. Enemy to his right, enemy to his left and at last, he was forced to make many war concessions and sign a peace treaty with the five kings who fervently proceeded to implement their plans of divide and conquer. A mighty nation was brought to its feet. The noble leader, Dark Knight was harassed and further humiliated and the good country folk felt bewildered. However, the witches, goblins, evil spirits and the five greedy kings held a large banquet where they celebrated their victory over their foe.

Only the kind fairy was left to console Dark Knight and fly from one village to another drying the tears of sad little children as she distributed small amounts of food to the starving. It would be many years before Dark Knight and his people could ever forget the evil that had been stormed upon them or break the spell of the witches. And no one lived happily ever after like most fairy tales. But instead, angels cried in heaven and their tears silently fell in the oceans of the world because they were dismayed at the hate and destruction that man had wrought on his fellow man.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 9

8:30 Day By Day

Do You Think I Am Sexy?

Every couple, one day, will have to face the monotony of marriage life.

9:10 Black Forest Clinic

Cheers Herr Professor

When the community throws a party in honour of Dr. Bregman, the doctor is unable to attend.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

No Man's Land

Starring: Stela Stevens

Nelly Wilder is the sheriff of a little quiet town. And the fact that she is a woman and a mother won't stop her from hunting down gangsters.

Friday, May 10

8:30 Night Court

The judge is having to mediate between loving but quarrelsome court employees.

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 Bergerac

Burnt

The case of the fraudulent Sir Anthony is giving Bergerac a very hard time. In fact had it not been for the fire Sir Anthony would have gotten away with everything.

Saturday, May 11

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

9:00 Encounter

Dr. Mamdouh Salameh

Rami Khouri's guest this week is the oil economist, Dr. Mamdouh Salameh who talks about oil economy in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Italian Feature Film

The Most Beautiful Woman

A beautiful young woman, who became one of the most famous opera singers in her time, a Russian military attaché in Paris, and a very famous music teacher... these three main characters constitute the necessary ingredients for love, romance, intrigue, and... murder, in 19th century Europe.

Sunday, May 12

8:30 Mother And Son

The Card Game

Arthur is busy preparing for a poker game in his house and his mother hides away the only deck of cards in the house in a bid to obtain a solemn promise from him not to think of leaving her.

9:10 All Our Children

Using Their Talents

This episode presents a

number of exceptionally gifted children from Japan, Brazil, Belgium, China and Britain.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Paradise

Hour Of The Wolf

A fierce encounter with a real wolf.

Monday, May 13

8:30 Empty Nest

First impressions may not last, a lesson Carol learns the hard way.

9:10 Inside Story

A final confrontation between Lola and her employer, John over the ethics and freedom of the press. In that confrontation both of them come out winning.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Derrick

Tuesday, May 14

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Hocus Pocus

Larry, devious as ever, uses his cousin Balky to conduct an interview with the British prime minister, who is visiting the United States. Larry almost succeeds.

9:10 Costeau

Twilight Of The Alaskan Hunter

10:00 News in English

10:20 French Feature Film

Gloria

Gloria has just finished dancing the "Dying Swan" by Sains-Sains, when a young man goes to her dressing room. The photo of Gloria and a young boy tells the story of her love for a young boy Jacques and which the declaration of the 1914 war has separated but now both are reunited in the dressing room. This reunification evokes all the souvenirs and seeing Jacques committed Gloria is sick in a delirium that only Jacques once free of his commitments, tried with the doctor to cure and give hope to such love — love the only cure —

Wednesday, May 15

After Henry

Preparation for Sarah's birthday party are interrupted by the grandmother's and the daughter's side relations with the decorators of Sarah's apartment.

9:10 Our House

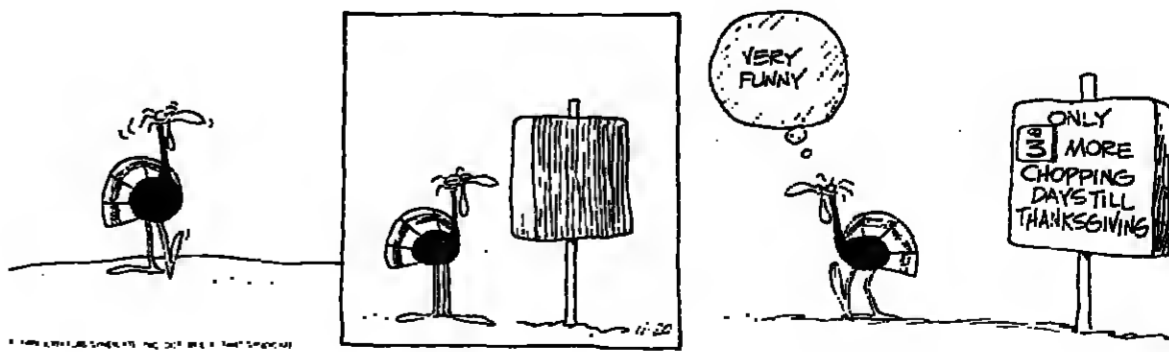
In this episode, a mother realises that her best intentions towards her baby may not be enough.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Behaving Badly

The Horse May Talk

B.C.



The Arts

I'm really a nice person, says Rod Steiger

By Ronald Clarke
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Rod Steiger stabs his fork into a pile of pasta — looking just like the brooding, menacing figure he has played in many of his 60 films.

But then he glances around at the beautiful women in the elegant Beverly Hills restaurant and smiles: "I rarely get the chance to play what I am, I hope — a fairly nice person."

"If I had taken some of the fat off my body when I was younger, I might have played more leading-men types."

Steiger, eating with his table napkin bulging out of his red shirt, has strong views about today's film industry.

"Some of the people playing in movies today wouldn't have got a job 30 years ago," he said.

"Thirty years ago they would have been thought not pretty enough, not tall enough and don't speak well enough."

He has this advice for today's actors: train and study and gain some experience of the world to draw on for your characters.

"My generation used to be talking about doing a Tennessee Williams play. Unfortunately, today a lot of you actors get too successful television first. For five years they are a star. It's sad."

"A young actor said to me, 'Mr. Steiger, what do you think of being a television star?'"

"I said, 'you grow legs and a tail and call yourself lasso.'"

After overcoming several years of deep depression, Steiger, 66, is now hard

to have roles that challenge him.

Steiger, a boy from a poor New York neighbourhood who spent five years in the U.S. Navy before finding he had a talent for acting, won a Hollywood Oscar for his role as a bigoted small-town sheriff in the movie *In The Heat Of The Night*.

He has also played a series of real-life characters, including Pope John, W.C. Fields, Mussolini, Napoleon, Al Capone and Pontius Pilate.

Steiger said that in *The Ballad Of The Sad Cafe* he plays a preacher and has only one scene with Redgrave. "I think she is undoubtedly one of the greatest actresses around. I think I can be pretty strong, and she can be pretty strong," he said.

When I was young, I had this childish idea that the art of acting came first. If the

woman is in your way, she has to go. If your child is too noisy, he has to be quiet.

"You think you have such great gifts and you are so unusual. And then you find out you are not all that unusual and your gifts may be up to question."

Today, my health is the first thing, my love for my life and daughter is the second thing, and the third thing is my profession," said Steiger, who married singer Paula Ellis in London in 1986.

He has a daughter, opera singer Anna Justine, by a previous wife, British actress Claire Bloom.

"My responsibility as a man is to put bread on the table. I would not do a television situation comedy. You do not get time to rehearse. But if suddenly I lost my money, I would be on my

knees to someone offering me such a role."

Steiger said he had worked in pictures in Europe for less money than he would normally expect because he liked to visit other countries.

"I portrayed Napoleon in the Soviet Union because I had never been there," he said. "But don't let's get carried away. The price can't go too low."

"But a bad side to (being) an actor today is to receive \$10 million for a role. The actor has to become a businessman. You have got to worry about what you are going to do with the money. Actors should have nothing to do with business."

Steiger doesn't disguise the fact that he loves his career in films.

"One of my crazy, unproven statistics is that 97 per



Rod Steiger in TV western, *Desperado: Avalanche At Devil's Ridge*.

cent of the world works at jobs they hate. If I had to work a regular nine-to-five job, I would be one of the drunks you throw out." said Steiger, who does not drink.

"So I am very lucky I fell into acting. If I work very hard for three months, I can take nine months off. And then I can go and procrastinate."

Oscar boosts morale of Swiss film-makers

By Hanns Neuerbourg
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The first Academy Award for a Swiss movie director boosted film industry morale, but many doubt a big business breakthrough — either at home or abroad — will follow.

The Oscar honouring Xavier Koller for his *Journey Of Hope* was hailed in the Swiss media. The movie has been sold in 20 countries, more widely than any other Swiss film. Distributors are confident the glory will boost domestic interest.

But it is a long way from being a blockbuster box-office hit, an elusive goal for most Swiss-made movies.

Since its first showing in fall, *Journey Of Hope* has drawn fewer than 100,000 viewers among Switzerland's 6.7 million people. That is better than average for a local production but no match for imports.

U.S. movies are the most popular. In addition, German and French films are often preferred by "stakers of Switzerland's two major language groups over home-grown productions."

In 1989, the last year for which figures were available, Dustin Hoffman's *Amadeus* topped the Swiss charts with 1.1 million viewers. The most widely seen Swiss film, *Gekauftes Glück* (Happiness For Sale), ranked 47th with 100,000 viewers, according to the Association of Swiss Movie Theatre Owners.

"Biting off Swiss films for lucrative business is risky," said the weekly *Sonntags-Zeitung* in an article ironically headed *Journey of hopelessness*.

Many observers are also pessimistic about *Journey Of Hope* becoming a blockbuster outside of Switzerland.

The independent daily *Berner Zeitung* warned that "to present Koller's film as a (commercial) breakthrough for Swiss movies would be a daring assertion. The film has been tough for Swiss films even in their own country."

The obstacle to international fame is that Swiss films often focus on domestic issues. Another is the frequent use of the local German dialect, which requires dubbing of subtitles even in neighbouring Germany. The industry is also handicapped by financing problems and lack of studios.

Quite a few Swiss films have indeed won international attention, but that has been largely confined to the art theatre circuit. In the 1970s, Alain Tanner, Claude Goretta and Daniel Schmid

were among Swiss directors acclaimed for uncompromising film on social themes, but the commercial appeal was limited.

"Economically, Swiss films have been lightweight," Yves Lenzlinger, director of the Swiss Film Centre, said in an interview. "However, they did quite well at various festivals and were highly valued by critics and by art theatre audiences."

"There has never been a real box-office hit," she added. "Maybe that will change now."

Rolf Lyssy, whose satirical 1977 "schweizermacher" (Swissmakers) was the only domestic film to draw a million-plus Swiss audience, also hopes Koller's Oscar will give other Swiss films a "sales push."

But he says the industry remains handicapped by a lack of studios and "almost insurmountable" financing difficulties.

Koller's *Journey Of Hope* had a 2.5-million budget, including 400,000 Swiss francs (\$281,000) from a government grant.

It is based on the true story of a Kurdish family who lose their way while trying to cross illegally into wealthy Switzerland over a snow-swept Alpine Pass. The son dies of exhaustion and exposure in his father's arms.

The refugee theme is novelty in critically acclaimed Swiss films.

Two other movies on the same subject have won prizes since World War II: *The Last Chance* by the late Leopold Lindtberg, won a prize at the 1946 Cannes Film Festival, and *The Boat Is Full* by Markus Imhoof, was nominated for the Academy Award in 1980.

It seems a natural topic in a country that sheltered tens of thousands of refugees toward the end of World War II — after originally barring Jewish fugitives from Nazi Germany — and which is home to the Red Cross movement.

Today, Switzerland registers more asylum seekers per resident than any Western country and authorities are under pressure to curb the flow.

The influential *Neue Zuercher Zeitung* newspaper said that Koller, in portraying the "hopelessness of countless fates of refugees and emigrants," also deserves credit for stressing the "importance of committed Swiss film-making focusing on current problems."

But it said that his film "from an artistic point of view was not the most convincing work among the five movies" nominated for this year's foreign film Oscar.

By Vanora Bennett
Reuters

LENINGRAD, Soviet Union — The school which trained the legendary dancers of Russian ballet — from Nijinsky and Pavlova to Rudolf Nureyev and Mikhail Baryshnikov — has fallen on hard times.

Through years of political stagnation, bureaucratic delays held up vital work on the Vaganova Ballet Academy, a decaying classical mansion set by a canal in the northern Russian city of Leningrad.

Like so many elegant buildings in the old Russian capital, formerly St. Petersburg, its glory has faded.

Although permission has come through for a structural overhaul, reforms designed to rescue the Soviet economy from chaos look likely to kill off the plans, Director Leonid Nadirov said in an interview.

"There has been no major repair work done on the building for over 100 years. A structural overhaul is the only way to make the school better and improve conditions

for the children," Nadirov said.

Mould breeds across walls and ceilings from rusting, protruding pipes, and heaps of decaying rubbish and rotting wood are piled up around the building's courtyard.

There are only two show-ers for 600 teenage pupils, who work at least 10 hours a day and perform two or three evenings a week in Leningrad theatres. Some 200 pupils live in a hostel two kilometres away.

An article in the satirical weekly *Ogonyok* said the building was even home to rats, but Nadirov said with a smile: "Everything is very old here. But there are no rats these days the rat described in *Ogonyok* was so old that she died."

Cradle of Russian ballet rocked by economic hardships

The problems are symptomatic of Leningrad, a glittering city built at the start of the 18th century by Italian architects to celebrate Emperor Peter the Great's supremacy over his northern neighbour Sweden after years of war.

An international fund has been set up in recent years to raise money to rescue the collapsing city, whose golden canalside palaces and curving boulevards once earned it the name of "Venice of the north."

The cornerstone of the Vaganova reconstruction plan is to reclaim a building behind the school, once part of its domain but now used by local authorities for private apartments, and set up a new hostel and classrooms there. The school has been allotted

funds to find new homes for the present occupants, and architects have just completed preliminary studies.

But the plan is jeopardised because the Leningrad City Soviet is now trying to decide on how to privatise property in the city. "New rules on this would make things difficult for us," said Nadirov.

If Soviet citizens are allowed to buy the flats they live in, the inhabitants of the block may refuse to move out.

In general, Nadirov said, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms since 1985 have brought his school few cash benefits.

"We've received freedom ... but no-one has given any money. These days I get less than before from the budget. "First of all there is no

material, or not enough, for the blocks in ballet shoes. Shoes for character dancing are now very expensive, about 100 roubles," he said. The average Soviet monthly wage is 270 roubles.

The school has received over 1,000 humanitarian aid parcels from ballet schools in the west in recent months. Britain's Royal Ballet School is providing basic medical care, dancing shoes and technical equipment unavailable in Leningrad.

Nadirov said feeding his pupils was a major problem. The school's budget allocation from the authorities has stayed for years at 1.72 roubles per child per day, which now buys almost nothing. One kilo (2.2 lbs) of sausage, for instance, cost 19 roubles in Leningrad after big price

rises on April 2. But the school's 250-year-old reputation as the cradle of classical ballet has earned it a financial reprieve not available to most Russians struggling against galloping inflation.

Since Gorbachev began encouraging contact with Western countries, the Vaganova Academy has been accepting about 50 foreign pupils a year. They pay \$500 a month in precious hard currency.

"The foreign students are helping us pay, especially now the exchange rate has improved. Two weeks ago, we changed \$10,000 and got back nearly 300,000 roubles," he said.

"We paid 100,000 for meals for the children — so they get a good meal — and 200,000 to the teachers as compensation for the April price rises (of at least 60 per cent)," he added.

"But we can only do it once, twice or maybe three times. After that, we will have no dollars and no roubles."

Argentina gives birth to new musical fad — 'bailanta'

By Jacqueline Mroz
Reuters

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina, land of the sensual tango, has given birth to a new musical phenomenon known as "bailanta."

Like tango at the turn of the century, Bailanta is quickly outgrowing its humble origin in working-class dance halls to become mainstream and take over Argentina's airwaves.

Bailanta is an Argentine version of tropical Latin American music. Unlike tango's moody cadence and often sombre lyrics, the new genre is fast, even livelier

than Salsa, and its verse overflows with double entendres.

"It's happy, fun music that everyone loves to dance to," said singer Riki Maravilla, widely recognised as the man who lifted Bailanta to its present height of popularity.

There are no rules for Bailanta. Dancing partners can either fuse into each other as in the now-defunct Lambada, follow its lively strains cheek-to-cheek or cavort around as if in a fit.

Bailanta evolved from the lively dance music of travelling quartets which hopped from village dance to village dance on weekend nights in the northern province of Cordoba.

The fad grew over the past year into massive proportions. Singers like Maravilla draw in thousands of dancing fans every weekend in cities and towns all over Argentina.

The stars of Bailanta include former waiters, bricklayers, lorry drivers and delivery boys. All hail from the provinces and are usually overnight success stories.

Many have fancy stage names like Pocho La Pantera (Pocho The Panther) or La Mona Gimenez (Gimenez The Monkey) or El Oso Serapi (Serapi The Bear). All seem to favour tight, shiny suits, elaborate hairdos and pointy white shoes.

Maravilla, known as "El

Petiso" (Shorty), has a typical story. A former newspaper vendor and messenger, he was discovered by a talent scout in a cafe in his native province of Salta in 1986.

Today he has gold and platinum record sales and his signature song "Que Tendra El Petiso?" (What Does The Short Guy Have?) was a hit at the most exclusive nightclubs in Buenos Aires and the Posh Uruguayan resort of Punta Del Este.

Radio stations and dance clubs picked up on the trend and began playing the music to an enthusiastic following. There are now Bailanta magazines, television shows and radio stations.

Bailanta's popularity has even prompted scholarly treatises by sociologists on why the genre appeals to people from all walks of life.

Maravilla explains its success. "The public needed a rhythm with words they could understand and sing along to. They were tired of listening to foreign music, and were tired of rock and technopop."

Bailanta has already crossed Argentina's borders into neighbouring Uruguay and Chile and may soon find followers in other countries.

Maravilla has performed recently for Latin audiences in California and Florida and

plans to travel to Spain for a series of shows.

Bailanta fever has also stricken politicians. Peronist Party candidates plan to set their campaigns to its cheerful tunes and cash in on its popularity on September's mid-term elections.

"Bailanta is the music of the working class, of the true Peronists," said Congressman Roberto Cruz, who is running for mayor of La Matanza, a working class suburb of Buenos Aires.

"People are bored of political speeches, so we're going to begin with Bailanta and speak for only 10 minutes," Cruz said.

Edinburgh to have opera house after 34-year argument

By Graham Heathcote
The Associated Press

LONDON — Edinburgh, the Scottish capital and home of the world's largest arts festival, will have an opera house after 34 years of discussion. The district council decided unanimously on March 22 to buy the Old Empire Theatre for \$1.6 million and spend another \$21.6 million converting it to a lyric theatre for major productions.

The stage will be enlarged on grounds at the rear of the building, which now serves as a bingo hall.

The Empire could seat 3,000 in its heyday. When converted next year it will seat around 2,000, comparable to the Royal Opera House in London's Covent Garden.

"There are people still alive who can recall opera at the Empire. I've been inside and it's very good," said Richard Mantle, managing director of the Scottish Opera, based in Glasgow. "Scottish Opera will be delighted to play at the Empire. If the work needed inside is done properly."

The Empire was built for variety shows in 1870 on Nicolson Street near the old university buildings and is being sold by the Rank Organisation.

Its last major production was the musical *Oklahoma* in 1961. Since 1963 the Empire has been used for bingo games.

The council will form a trust to run the opera house and aims to have it ready for the 1992 festival.

"This is truly a great day for the arts, not only for Edinburgh but for the whole of Scotland," Mark Lazarowicz, leader of the majority Labour Party group which runs the council, said as the council approved the purchase.

Constructing a new opera house could have cost at least five times as much. The council will own the Empire and use it all year for opera, ballet and other major productions from London and abroad. It will be the prime stage venue of the International Arts Festival held for three summer weeks every year since 1947.

The city has been discussing an opera house since 1957," said district council spokesman Martin Hannan. "The possibility of acquiring

the Empire was raised in 1977 but the building only came on the market in 1990."

Who will run the Empire has not yet been decided. It might attract Frank Dunlop, director of the International Festival, who said in January that his eighth festival this year would be his last.

Dunlop warned of the constant struggle to fund the festival, which is subsidised by government, local authorities, business and a few private donations.

The city is more parsimonious toward the arts than rival Glasgow, despite the fame and millions of dollars a year Edinburgh gains in tourist income from the festival.

Foreign producers criticised the city for not providing an opera house and some refused to appear.

Visiting companies usually crammed themselves into the unsuitable King's Theatre and even into the Playhouse, a temporarily converted cinema with a too-shallow stage.

The King's has 1,300 seats and a performing area only 10 feet (3.6 metres) square behind a 34-foot (10-metres) wide proscenium.

The Playhouse with 3,100 seats in Britain's biggest theatre. Its stage is 72 feet (22 metres) wide but about the same depth as King's.

Edinburgh — often described as a city of lawyers and bankers — became the butt on ridicule when Glasgow, 40 miles (61 kilometres) away and regarded as a cultural Antarctica, launched Scottish Opera in 1962. The company set up a permanent

home in 1975 in the refurbished Theatre Royal, the first opera house opened in Britain since World War II.

The Empire survived a disastrous fire on May 9, 1911, and thereby hangs a tale of devotion between dog and man. Nearly 3,000 people in the audience got out safely but 10 died, including the show's star, a 40-year-old American illusionist who billed himself as "the great Lafayette — the man of mystery."

He was a German-born U.S. citizen whose real name was Sigmund Neuburger.

An inquiry found that electric wires among his props fused and started a fire on the stage. The victims included a lion and a horse used in the act.

Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

ject PLO participation.

Jordan has expressed readiness to enter negotiation with a joint-Palestinian delegation if asked by the PLO, but the organization so far insists on an independent delegation.

"This is a principled position," the Jordanian official said of the PLO's call for an independent delegation, "but if there were concrete developments on the substance of a peaceful resolution, a joint delegation may become acceptable to the PLO."

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has already shuttled the region three times during the past two months and is scheduled to return to the Middle East Friday.

Baker is also planning to meet Besmertnykh in Cairo Sunday. Soviet ambassador to Jordan Yuri Gritchenov Wednesday said the visit to Jordan Thursday by Soviet Foreign Minister Besmertnykh assumes a special importance in view of the current situation in the Middle East and is expected to support current efforts to give impetus to the peace process in the region.

Gritchenov said that the Soviet foreign minister's visit reflects the strong ties between Amman and Moscow and the Soviet Union's desire to play its role in efforts to revive the peace process.

He said the Palestine question was expected to be at the top of the agenda for discussion by the foreign minister during his current tour in the region because it is the most important problem in the whole Arab-Israeli question.

Any peace in the region should be just and lasting and all the parties should be involved in negotiations to attain the kind of peace desired, said the ambassador.

The Soviet Union and the United States are in agreement on the need for cooperation to give momentum to the peace process, he added.

IMF

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He said a parliamentary debate over how and where the foreign aid would be spent was delayed until the last session of parliament so that not enough time was left to discuss it adequately.

Martin said Jordan has already received more than half the aid earmarked for Jordan from Japan, the European Community, Germany, France and Holland and was scheduled to receive an additional \$60 million from the World Bank to be dispersed over the next year and a half.

He did not say how the money would be used, but pointed out that the government has already started spending from the JD 120 million emergency budget to invest in productive sectors.

A financial source said that of all sectors in the economy, the tourism sector suffered the most due to the total collapse of the hotel industry except for two hotels in the Kingdom which benefited from tourists who came to cover the Gulf crisis. He explained that a whole network of tourist facilities, such as transport (buses), restaurants and other support industries were devastated.

"The tourism and transport sectors are the worst victims, not the industry," he explained. "The industry suffered less because Iraq eventually consumed most of our industrial output," he said. "But tourism and transport were left with almost nothing."

The source agreed with critics of the government saying that it had its priorities wrong. "With unemployment at 30 to 40 per cent and the standards of living going so low, I think the government should open up and tell us what it is planning to do with the money apart from covering the deficit and looking good in front of creditors."

Bessmertnykh

(Continued from page 1)

of Bessmertnykh and Baker by building three new settlements in less than a month.

"The international community is indeed called upon to try harder and act in concert, but in a different direction after diplomatic efforts failed," said the government daily Tishreen.

"It... should adopt political, economic and other measures that would force the rulers of Tel Aviv to submit to the will of the international community..."

"Will the world, which has taken the Gulf crisis as a starting point for reaffirming its effective presence, allow Israel to continue perpetrating crimes against the Palestinians?" the paper added.

"They stress that the Soviet Union is still committed to Syria's defensive military needs, but no longer backs its goal of achieving strategic parity with Israel. Syria has reportedly turned to other suppliers such as North Korea to fill the gap."

In Moscow, the official TASS news agency quoted Israel's consul general as saying his country was ready to restore diplomatic relations severed by Moscow after the 1967 Middle East war.

"We are ready to do this. Now it is up to the Soviet side to decide," Artych Levin told TASS.

Women in the front line

By Amnesty International

A PREGNANT woman detainee is punched in the stomach by police officers. An elderly woman is raped in front of her family by armed soldiers. A young girl is detained and sexually humiliated by government officials. A wife is tortured by interrogators to force her husband "confess." A mother is shot dead by soldiers simply because her son is suspected of political activities. A daughter is threatened with death by government agents because she asks after her "disappeared" father.

The list of such gross human rights violations against women is endless. Many are targeted because they are strong — because they are political activists, community organisers, or persist in demanding that their rights or those of their relatives are respected. Others are targeted because they are seen as vulnerable — young women who can easily be sexually abused or humiliated, frightened mothers who will do anything to protect their children, or pregnant women fearful for their unborn babies, women who can be used to get at men or refugee women, isolated and vulnerable in unfamiliar surroundings.

This report details human rights violations which are primarily suffered by women as well as a range of human rights abuses that women have experienced alongside men and children.

Women's human rights, like those of men and children, are proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights — the individual freedoms basic to human life. These include freedom of conscience, expression and association, freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention, freedom from torture, the right to a fair trial, and freedom from extrajudicial killing. These rights have been trampled on by governments around the world.

Women are primarily the victims of certain abuses. Rape, frequently used as a form of torture, is most often inflicted on women detainees. The United Nations (U.N.) Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment prohibits "any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted" for purposes such as obtaining information or punishing, intimidating, or coercing a person. No government official should be permitted to commit or tolerate rape and other forms of sexual attack.

Women are particularly vulnerable to rape between the time of arrest and arrival at official detention centres. In some countries law enforcement officials or military personnel have committed rape and other sexual abuses without having officially arrested the victim. However, confinement in an official place of detention does not necessarily protect women from rape or other sexual abuses. Many have reported that prison guards have raped them, attempted to rape them, or threatened them with rape.

For women who are pregnant at the time of detention, additional suffering often accompanies human rights abuses. They risk injury to the foetus, miscarriage and the prospect of giving birth in harsh prison conditions. The women who become pregnant as

a result of rape in custody face yet a further set of traumas.

Women also suffer from sexual humiliation, threats of rape and verbal abuses intended to degrade them. All of these violate their basic human rights by subjecting them to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Some women are subjected to human rights violations merely because they happen to be the wives, mothers, daughters or friends of people whom the authorities consider to be "dangerous" or "undesirable." These women are threatened, held as substitutes for their relatives, tortured or even killed as governments attempt to exert their will over those closely connected in some way with the women.

In many African countries a strong tradition of family or community solidarity has protected prisoners in vulnerable situations. This has led some governments deliberately to exploit family relations, by imprisoning, threatening and harassing prisoners' relatives. In Guinea, under the rule of the late President Sékou Touré, wives were pressurised by the state to divorce their imprisoned husbands.

Countless women are forced to live in the shadow of another person's "disappearance." A woman may suddenly become her family's sole source of support just at the time when she is facing the absence of a close relative and is trying to locate the "disappeared" victim. She may be effectively widowed by her husband's "disappearance," yet unable to claim state or other benefits because her husband has not been declared dead. Officially or legally.

Relatives of the "disappeared" face additional, emotional suffering in many cultures. Women often refuse to give up hope and search for years for husbands and children who have disappeared, even though relatively few victims of "disappearance" survive this inhuman violation. But unless or until they reappear, or their bodies are found, their families suffer years of uncertainty, unable properly to mourn their loss and thus perhaps to lay their grief to rest.

AI, as a matter of principle, condemns the torture and killing of prisoners by anyone, including opposition groups. It does not, however, treat such groups as though they had the status of governments. Nor does it address them unless they are certain of the essential attributes of a government, such as control over substantial territory and population. It is, after all, governments which have jurisdiction to determine criminal responsibility and to bring to justice those responsible for violent attacks on government authorities, security forces, and civilians. The state's exercise of such lawful authority, however, must conform to international standards of human rights and observe norms safeguarding fundamental human rights provided in domestic law.

Many governments do not maintain these norms. The rape of peasant women, either while in formal custody or when held by soldiers during counter-insurgency operations, is a common phenomenon in many countries. Governments often are complacent in the face of such

abuse. Legal officials in Peru's Ayacucho department told AI representatives in 1986 that rape by government troops operating in rural areas was to be expected. In late September 1990, a Peruvian woman and her 17-year-old daughter were detained in a military base and repeatedly raped by a number of soldiers. Both women were subsequently released but warned not to report the rape.

Women refugees and asylum-seekers have also been the victims of sexual abuse by police, soldiers or other government agents. Many of these women lack the support systems which would be provided in their own communities or by their close relatives. With few resources to protect them from abuse or to provide the means of redress, they become victims of a range of violations.

Cultural or social circumstances sometimes render women particularly isolated by the human rights violations they experience. They may choose not to report humiliating assaults by government authorities, fearing reprisals from their own families, traumatic social repercussions, or further attacks by government officials.

During the past decade, increasing numbers of women have spoken out for human rights protection. They have stated publicly and clearly what they and other members of their communities have suffered. They have also organised community and national groups to protest against human rights abuses. In some countries their vulnerability to such abuse has increased as they have assumed public leadership roles and spoken out about the special measures needed to protect women's human rights. Despite this, they continue to make their demands heard. The Committee of Mothers and Relatives of Political Prisoners, and Victims of Political Assassination and Disappearance, known as COMADRES, has been prominent for many years in the struggle to protect human rights in El Salvador. The COMADRES continue their work today, despite repeated threats against members of the group and violent attacks such as the October 1989 bombing of their San Salvador offices.

Some women are subjected to human rights violations because of their relationship to people whom the authorities consider "dangerous." The following month, soldiers raided the offices and arrested nine COMADRES activists. Some of those arrested later said that they had been blindfolded, handcuffed, and beaten in detention.

The Mutual Support Group for the Appearance of Our Relatives Alive, known as GAM, has been a target of violence in Guatemala. GAM members press government authorities to account for those who "disappear."

Several GAM leaders, including Rosario Godoy de Cuevas, were abducted and killed in 1985, apparently by government agents.

Other GAM members are now the target of threats. The group's leader, Nineth Montenegro de Garcia, has received so many death threats that human rights activists worldwide have sent



AI has received numerous reports of women being tortured while in police custody in Turkey. Nevruz Türkdoğan was treasurer of the Women's Association for Democracy in Turkey. While distributing a journal in Ankara on 15 September 1990, she and her husband were detained by police. Despite informing the police that she was two and a half months pregnant, Nevruz Türkdoğan testified that she was repeatedly beaten for three days. She miscarried on 19 September. She was then taken to Ankara Numune Hospital. On 20 September she was unconditionally released by Ankara State Security Court.



Wafa Idris is one of at least 77 women arrested in Syria between August 1977 and February 1988 who remain in detention without charge or trial. Hundreds of women have been arrested in Syria since 1985 because of their relationship to men sought by the security forces, or because of their own peaceful political activities. Torture of political prisoners is systematic in Syria. It is carried out during interrogation to extract "confessions" and information, and to punish detainees. Reports of rape by members of the security forces are numerous.

appeals on her behalf to the Guatemalan authorities on a number of occasions. Her mother, whose house was strafed with machine-gunfire in July 1990, also appears to be at risk from government forces or people associated with them. The bullets recovered from the attack reportedly were of a calibre known to be used by the military.

Women have played prominent roles in South African human rights organisations such as the Detainees Parents Support Committee and the Black Sash. Despite decades of repression, women activists have continued to mobilise against mass detentions, torture, and the injustices perpetuated by apartheid.

Noma India Mleketo attended the 1985 International Women's Congress in Nairobi, representing the United Women's Congress and the Federation of South African Women. Her international prominence, however, did not protect her when she returned home: she spent nine months in detention without charge or trial in 1987 and was again detained for several months in 1988 and 1989. Like many of her colleagues, she was detained solely for the peaceful exercise of basic human rights.

Susan Aniban of Task Force Detainees, a human rights group in the Philippines, was reportedly detained and tortured in November 1988. Numerous women human rights workers there have been subjected to such ill-treatment.

Turkish officials detained several members of a women's organisation in January 1990, after a police raid on the offices of

the Association of Democratic Women in Ankara. They were reportedly interrogated under torture.

The perseverance of women like these in the face of such persecution, along with the courage of many other men and women who continue to fight for human rights, has yielded significant results in recent years. More information is now available to the international community about what is happening to women worldwide than ever before. The momentum to end patterns of abuse has increased as more women have joined efforts to publicise the facts and to press for change.

The international campaign is expanding and accelerating on behalf of women who struggled for their rights and did not survive, on behalf of women now struggling to survive, and on behalf not only of women but of all people who ought never to have to face human rights violations. Human rights activists are demanding that protections guaranteed become a reality in all countries.

The international human rights covenants, The U.N. Convention against Torture, the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and many other agreements, establish minimum standards of government responsibility.

If governments ignore their responsibilities to any sector of society — whether to women, to the young, or to members of ethnic or religious minorities — then no one's human rights are safe. □



Embarca bent Taleb, a radio announcer in Layoune in the Western Sahara, was taken from her home by plainclothes police officers in September 1979 and has not been seen since. She left behind a 13-year-old daughter. She is one of hundreds of people who have "disappeared" in the south of Morocco and the Western Sahara, many of whom were arrested because they or their relatives were suspected of opposing Moroccan rule of the Western Sahara territory and sympathising with the Polisario Front armed opposition organisation. Evidence suggests that many of the "disappeared" in Morocco are still alive and confined in secret detention centres.

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Sabatini makes smooth start in Italian Open Tennis Tournament

ROME (AP) — Playing at home before a partisan crowd often give an athlete a vital edge. Yet desire to shine in front of one's own fans can also be a burden.

"I just felt too much responsibility," said Italian player Sandra Cecchini after being upset 6-4, 7-5 by France's Karine Quentrec in her opening round match at the Italian Open.

"I practically gave her the match. This morning, when I walked out onto the court, I felt good. And then, at a certain point, I just couldn't do anything. I was shaking. I was shaking. I just felt too much pressure."

Second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini didn't seem shaken by the pressure at the Foro Italico during her opening second round match. The 21-year-old Argentine, hailed past South Africa's Amanda Coetzer 6-2, 6-2 on a damp, chilly centre court.

"I've always been very comfortable here," said the world's third ranked player and a perennial crowd favourite at Rome. "The people are very supportive and vocal. It's like when I play in Argentina."

No. 4 seed Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States beat Italian qualifier Lorenza Jauch 7-5, 6-3 in the final night match on Tuesday.

Defending champion Monica Seles of Yugoslavia makes her centre court debut Wednesday against Australia's Nicole Pietrangeli. Seles, who is of Italian descent, third-seeded Martina Navratilova will face South Africa's Elza Reinach, while No. 7 seed Jennifer Capriati plays Cristina Tassi of Argentina.

Ranked no. 18 in the world, the 26-year-old Cecchini was the

highest seeded Italian player in the women's draw. "This is the only truly important tournament we have to Italy," said no. 11 seed Cecchini.

"Everyone here expects the best from us. And we try to play our best. But I'm sure that if I'd played this match anywhere else to the world, I would have won it."

Cecchini had started well to 1991, winning nine of her first 13 matches. In mid-April, she reached the semifinals of the Virginia Slims tournament to Houston, losing to top-ranked Monica Seles of Yugoslavia. At the end of the month, she won the Ladies Open at Bol, Yugoslavia, defeating Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva in the finals.

Cecchini's match against the unseeded Quentrec began Monday, and was suspended because of rain with the French player leading 6-4, 0-1. On Tuesday, Cecchini took a quick 4-1 lead in the second set before rain halted play once more. After a two-hour rain delay, Cecchini widened her lead to 5-1. With Quentrec serving at 5-2, Cecchini squandered four set points. Quentrec, ranked 58th in the world, won the next five games to complete the upset.

"The rain delays and the damp court didn't have too much of an effect," said the disappointed Cecchini. "It was the pressure. It affected all of my shots, especially my forehand, which was my best shot last week at Bol. I can't believe that I was playing so well, and then all of a sudden I couldn't do anything."

Cecchini's best showings at the Foro Italico Tournament came in 1988, when she reached the quarterfinals. "I've never played well here to the opening rounds," she admitted.



Gabriela Sabatini

I've played reasonably well against top players, like Gabriela Sabatini or Martina Navratilova. All I can say is that I hope I can forget today's match as soon as possible, and go back to playing like I was before."

Sabatini needed 1 hour and 23 minutes to dispense with her adversary. The world's third-ranked player, Sabatini kept Coetzer off balance with hard-hit topspin forehands and backhands that drove the South African off the baseline.

"It was very cold out tonight," said Sabatini after the match. "But once I got warmed up I didn't have any trouble. I felt quite comfortable."

Germany's Anke Huber, the no. 13 seed, won her first round match against Alexia Dechamne of France 6-1, 6-3.

Federica Bonfiglioli of Italy, the no. 16 seed, fell to Germany's

Judith Rittner 6-2, 6-3.

Sabatini has lost just two of 29 matches this year. She has won four tournaments since January, the most recent at Amelia Island in Florida in April where she beat Germany's Steffi Graf in the final. Always a powerful, agile player, her game has improved since taking on Brazilian Carlos Kirmayer as coach last year.

"Carlos has helped me with a lot of things, especially with my confidence at net," said the 21-year-old Argentine. "But the biggest change is to myself. I feel like I've matured."

A two-time Foro Italico champion, Sabatini knows that she will have to fight to defeat defending Italian Open champion Monica Seles. "This is a very difficult field," she said. "There are no easy matches, and I can't say which player will give me more trouble. It will all happen on the court."

Chang advances, Rostagno upset at U.S. clay courts

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (R) — Top seed Michael Chang overcame a case of nerves to oust Sweden's Niclas Kroon 6-0, 7-5 in a first round match at the U.S. men's Clay Court Tennis Championships.

Second-seeded American Derrick Rostagno, however, let a big first set lead slip away and fell to Peruvian clay court specialist Pablo Arraya 7-6, 6-3.

In other first round encounters third-seeded defending champion David Wheaton bounced fellow American Chuck Adams 6-4, 6-3 and fourth-seeded American Richey Reneberg, fresh from claiming his first career title in Tampa Sunday, fought off Raul Viver of Ecuador 6-4, 7-5.

Despite an admitted case of pre-match jitters, the speedy Chang rolled through the opening set without dropping a game.

The second set proved to be more of a battle as the players exchanged service breaks the opening two games and again in

games six and seven. Kroon forced Chang on the defensive, but the world number 10, a natural counter-puncher, was up to the challenge.

The Swede became his own worst enemy when serving to stay in the match at 5-6. A series of errors, including a missed backhand volley, a backhand groundstroke error and a backhand passing shot hit wide gave Chang the match.

"I felt nervous going into the match because this is my first real tournament on clay this year," explained Chang, the 1989 French Open champion. "I knew he would play from backcourt and that I'd have to hit a lot of balls to order to win."

Rostagno had built 4-0 and 5-2 first set leads when his game began to unravel, especially from the service line.

Arraya, ranked 102 places below Rostagno at 124th, broke the American in the ninth and 11th games to force a tiebreak which he won 7-3.

Evert picks Graf, Agassi to win French Open

NEW YORK (R) — Seven-time French Open champion Chris Evert is picking Steffi Graf and Andre Agassi to win this month's French Open, the second Grand Slam tournament of the year.

"I have to go with Steffi. I feel she has a lot to prove. She is the hungriest of all the players," said Evert, who made her predictions Tuesday at a news conference announcing the name change of 38-year-old magazine World Tennis to Tennis Illustrated starting with the September issue.

"I think her confidence will grow and grow," said Evert, referring to Graf's victory in Monday's Hamburg final over Yugoslav teenager Monica Seles, who supplanted Graf as world number one.

"She's got to pick. And it will be one of her biggest wins, because she's gone through a dry spell of 15 months."

Graf, who won her last Grand Slam title at the 1990 Australian Open, lost to Seles in last year's

French Open final.

Evert, a contributor to the magazine, was not as confident about her pick on the men's side.

"I'd love to see (Boris) Becker win it. The last time he played he was very discouraged," Evert, who is five months pregnant, said in a telephone bookup from Florida.

"Then there's Lendl and...oh boy," she said, contemplating the possibilities. "I'm going to pick Agassi."

Ederg advances in Hamburg

HAMBURG, (AP) — Top-ranked Stefan Ederg moved into the third round of the \$1-million German Open Tennis Tournament, beating Alexander Mironov of Germany 6-3, 6-1.

Ederg, who had a bye in the first round, looked comfortable on the red clay court using an aggressive net game.

Fly So Free scratched from Preakness, Belmont stakes

NEW YORK (AP) — Fly So Free, last year's 2-year-old champion who finished fifth in the Kentucky Derby, will not run in the Preakness and Belmont Stakes in favour of shorter races.

"He's sound, he's beautiful, but I don't want to destroy him at long distances," trainer Scotty Schulhofer told the New York Times. "I just don't think he wants to go a mile and a quarter."

Fly So Free, bred to Kentucky, won the Breeder's Cup Juvenile and the Eclipse Award as the top 2-year-old last year. He opened this season by winning the Gulfstream Triple Crown — the Hutcheson Stakes, the Fountain of Youth and the Florida Derby — before faltering in the Kentucky Derby.

"I always was a little suspicious that he couldn't go a mile and a quarter," Schulhofer said. "In the Derby, he gave everything he

had, but he didn't want to run that last eighth."

"A lot of horses would be depressed after getting beat like that. But he's a great horse, always upbeat and willing. And I just don't want to kill him trying to go distances like that."

The Preakness, second leg of the 3-year-old triple crown, is 1 3-16ths miles and the Belmont 1 1/2 miles.

Schulhofer also predicted that another of his horses, Cahill Road, would never race again. Cahill Road, a full brother of 1990 Kentucky Derby winner Unbridled, has a strained suspensory ligament in his left foreleg.

Cahill Road sustained the injury while the Wood Memorial at Aqueduct on April 20.

"It's 95 per cent sure he won't run again," Schulhofer said. "Damage to the suspensory is a major thing."

Juventus silences players

TURIN, Italy (R) — Ailing Italian soccer giant Juventus have imposed strict controls on players speaking to the media until the end of the season.

"Juventus is unwell and we think the best medicine is a bit of silence," the Turin club's General Manager Enrico Bendoricci said.

Juventus, rich in talent with Italian World Cup players Salvatore Schillaci and Roberto Baggio and Germany's Thomas Haessler, have had a dismal season. Defeat at Napoli next Sunday could see them out of European competition next season for the first time for 28 years.

Platt rejects move to Bari

LONDON (R) — England World Cup midfielder David Platt has turned down a \$4.7 million (\$8.1 million) transfer to Italian club Bari.

In a statement issued here Wednesday, Platt, 24, said he did not feel 100 per cent certain about the move.

Platt travelled to Italy Monday to discuss a possible transfer from Aston Villa, currently threatened by relegation from the English first division, but decided to reject the offer.

"My decision has nothing to do

with money. By signing for Bari I would have been financially secure for the rest of my life. My decision is purely a football one," he said.

"The officials were charming, the stadium magnificent and the money more than generous. But I do not feel 100 per cent certain, hence my decision."

Platt, formerly with Crewe Alexandra, is regarded as a future national captain and long-term replacement for former skipper Bryan Robson in the England side.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MAY 10, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Only by refusing to get upset and by making a special point to use common self-control will you avoid a feeling of frustration or of confusion and a desire to downgrade yourself.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A day to use every spare moment having the pleasures and the good time that means the most to you so be about early, get work done and then play.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Take some time out to toot your residence and to do those things that make you feel you have the approval of those who dwell under your roof.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Complicating your usual allies on the good things they have done and letting them know that you have in mind for the future can be rewarding.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have the need to gain the good will of some person of importance who has made a big success of the financial side of their life.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can do pretty much what you please now so be off to those personal interests that mean the most to you and you can really make them.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Many intimate chores that will

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MAY 9, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Engage in what ever interests you today that has to do with charm beauty, the romantic or lighter side of life, art, music, culture and any like interest that will lift your spirits.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are able to see things to be done at your home or where your own job is concerned that you can do much better and get some kicks from the doing.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Now you have it in your power to get off to see those charismas you like during spare moments and can discuss the future practical terms with them.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take some time out to be very down to earth in your interests and do those jobs that do mean you accept a chance to get your affairs in order.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever you have in mind pertaining to a good time is all right now as you deserve some release from tension so contact some friends.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Look for that specialist who has all the "in" information for some project of importance to you and get him to give you the data you want now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) This is the time to be sure you do make as many new social or friendly contacts as possible but its you move and up to you so don't pass it by.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever you have to mind that seems more worldly social or good will from highly placed persons is just right for you so get out and busy.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are out to get all kinds of interesting new contacts if you band yourself with those who know their way around and who are wise in character.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Now you find that your obligations have a good chance of being settled right if you take a prominent person into your confidence.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There are a number of ingenious new solutions you can now find with associates if you take the time and trouble to think them out clearly.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is the moment when you can pitch in with enthusiasm and get those projects facing you done in an interesting and highly fascinating fashion.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever pleasures appeal to you this is the day to concentrate on them and to have the kicks you like and in conjunction with them.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris
HARRIS 9-25

"I'm all out of blush. Call me up at work every 15 minutes or so and tell me something embarrassing."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Hans Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TRAIE
DOUOT
LUMEFF
SHERTH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprising answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A C R A C K S H A K Y H U M B L E G I B L E T

Yesterday's Jumble: CRACK SHAKY HUMBLE GIBLET
Answer: The only tranquilizer that has no side effects—LAUGHTER

THE Daily Crossword by Charles R. Woodard

ACROSS
1 "— true what they say—"
5 Topic crown
10 Lull
14 A Copperfield
15 Willow
16 Max food
17 Gary Cooper film
20 Fishermen
21 Carnival attractions
22 Shamrock land
23 Intellect
25 December mail
26 Assistant
29 Law def.
32 Lay plant
33 Accurate e.g.
34 Fuel
35 Richard Boone film
36 Miller
40 Rims
41 Puzzled
42 Formerly
43 Break of a habit
44 Ride
45 Slightly open
47 Arab VIP
48 Kind of acid
51 Failing
54 Ali MacGraw film
56 Commedia
58 Not
59 Unannounced
60 Excellent
61 There are seven
62 Sharp pains
63 "— we forget"

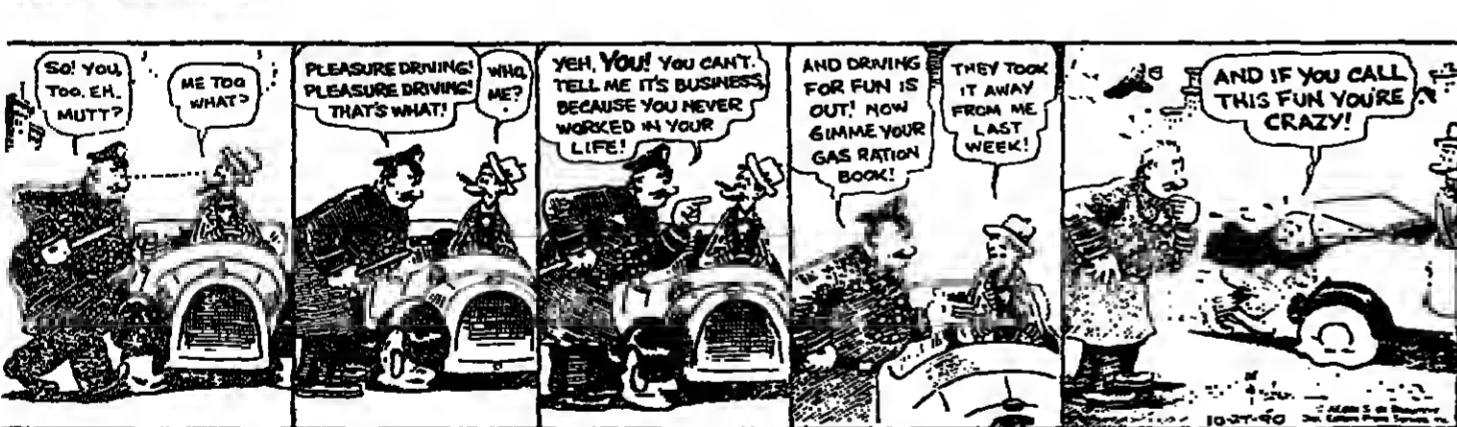
DOWN
1 Turk mountain
2 Couch
3 Neighbor of Pakistan
4 Marked
5 Lips
6 Fr. river
7 Bathers
8 Kinsman: abbr.
9 Fattings
10 Digified

11 Grease
12 Pinnacle
13 Throw
14 Charles Lamo
15 Mesh-spirited
23 Gloves
24 The same
25 Carl of TV
26 Primarily
27 Not a soul
28 Pale
29 Unbound
30 Brighten
31 Meadow sound
33 Samantha of film
38 Promotion
39 Perhaps
40 Neighbor of Pakistan
44 Soap plants
45 In (positioned)
46 Mountain chain
47 Surrounded by
48 Moslem rulers
49 Additional

50 Particle
51 Sch. subj.
52 Woodwind
53 Sisters
54 Kernel sound
56 Airport abbr.
57 Movie location

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:
MACE BROKE ARE
DORS RABER BOD
WHIPPOURRIE APPRE
FAC GINDI BRAGE
COIN STUNGER
REBEA BUREA
ALIA FUROR ONE
PUNTERPUNTER
DEAD END
DECEPION ROLD
ATPION SOME HAT
SHADINUTHEGAS
PALLY VITAL
SSE PLEDS SIAN

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets			NEW YORK			TOKYO		
Currency	DATE	CLOSE	DATE	CLOSE	DATE	DATE	CLOSE	DATE
Sterling Pound	5/5/91	1.7275	5/5/91	1.7255				
Deutsche Mark		1.7160		1.7180				
Swiss Franc		1.4525		1.4640				
French Franc		5.8080		5.8220				
Japanese Yen		137.85		137.88				
European Currency Unit		1.1980		1.1960				

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Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.93	5.93	6.06	6.50
Sterling Pound	11.75	11.30	11.72	11.72
Deutsche Mark	8.81	8.87	9.12	9.18
Swiss Franc	8.31	8.31	8.18	7.87
French Franc	9.06	9.15	9.15	9.25
Japanese Yen	8.09	7.81	7.62	7.57
European Currency Unit	9.56	9.50	9.50	9.43

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 m. dollar, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	356.65	6.70	Silver	4.04	.087

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	678	682
Sterling Pound	1.1685	1.1765
Deutsche Mark	3.944	3.968
Swiss Franc	4.659	4.687
French Franc	1.165	1.172
Japanese Yen*	4.913	4.942
Dutch Guilder	3.501	3.522
Swedish Krona	1.103	1.110
Italian Lira*	0.534	0.537
Belgian Franc	0.1916	0.1927

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	7.600	7.7800
Lebanese Lira*	0.720	0.740
Saudi Riyal	1.503	1.519
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	1.840	1.860
Egyptian Pound	1.960	2.050
Omani Riyal	7.300	7.700
UAE Dirham	8.832	1.850
Greek Drachma*	3.400	3.700
Cypriot Pound	4.275	4.445

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	6/5/91	Close	7/5/91	Close
All-Share	113.99		113.51	
Banking Sector	110.21		109.52	
Insurance Sector	110.36		110.93	
Industry Sector	119.87		118.34	
Services Sector	123.26		122.24	

* December 31, 1990 = 100

Crisis reaches boiling point

N.Y. mayor threatens to slash city services

NEW YORK (R) — New York City's long-simmering financial crisis has reached the boiling point, with Mayor David Dinkins saying he is ready to turn off the lights, lock the doors and throw away the keys to scores of city services.

Swearing he is not bluffing, Dinkins says he will shut the Central Park Zoo, drain the city's outdoor swimming pools, lay off 10 per cent of the municipal work force and close homeless shelters and health clinics.

The mayor, criticised for months for not taking strong action, says he will also darken a quarter of the crime-plagued city's 295,000 street lamps.

Dinkins flew to the New York State capital Albany Tuesday to plead with officials for more state aid which he says could stave off the draconian measures he plans to spell out to New Yorkers in a television speech on Thursday.

City hall regulars call the mayor's plans his doomsday budget if the city is forced to go it alone. It could be implemented within weeks because the state is wrestling with a financial crisis of its own and may be unwilling or unable to help. The state must close a \$6 billion budget gap.

Harder hit by the recession than many other U.S. cities, New York now faces its worst financial crisis since the mid-1970s, when it

narrowly averted bankruptcy through a series of federal and state loan guarantees.

Dinkins must close a \$465 million budget gap for current financial year ending on June 30 and then close a \$3.5 billion budget gap projected for the next financial year.

If he fails, the city's finances will be taken over by the state which neither he nor Governor Mario Cuomo say they want.

The politics involved in solving the financial crisis is enormous. Cuomo is often cited as a possible 1992 Democratic presidential candidate and cannot afford to be seen as either letting New York City's first black mayor twist slowly in the wind of solving the state and city's problems by ordering up a batch of new taxes.

The state budget is already more than a month overdue because of a three-way stalemate that pits Cuomo not only against the Republican-controlled state Senate, but against the Democrat-dominated assembly. Cuomo himself has taken to wondering aloud if the state will even have a budget by July 1, when New York City's next budget is supposed to go into effect.

If the state budget and, with it, state aid payments to municipalities are delayed past June 30th, New York City could again approach bankruptcy and a possi-

ble state takeover.

"There is no adjective sufficient to describe the consequences New Yorkers will have to bear if New York is forced to go it alone," Dinkins said after meeting with the governor Saturday. Dinkins said the city will be "left high and dry" if it does not get help soon.

The Standard & Poor's securities rating agency last month dealt the city a severe blow by downgrading its rating on notes, meaning New York will have to pay higher interest rates on its new bond issues.

The mayor's doomsday budget plan calls for laying off 23,156 full-time and 5,963 part-time workers out of a labour force of 230,000, and instituting \$1.5 billion in service cuts that will hit every area of the city.

To curtail cuts, Dinkins wants the city's unions to agree to take unpaid furloughs and defer wage increases. The unions have so far refused, telling the mayor to lay off workers instead.

Another part of the mayor's plan calls for the city to cut back on the hours that libraries and museums are open, and fire thousands of teachers and manual street cleaners.

Only the criminal justice system — police and courts — have been spared from the mayor's cuts so far.

Italian parliament tightens stock trading rules

ROME (R) — Parliament Tuesday passed a law banning insider trading in the latest of a series of Italian stock market reforms. The legislation includes penalties of up to two years in prison and fines of up to 900 million lire (\$700,000) for anyone found guilty of using inside information to profit from share trading.

Insider information is defined as information not publicly available which could affect the price of a share.

Government ministers and senior company executives were also forbidden to make any share deals from the moment a cabinet or company board meeting has been called.

The bourse reforms are aimed at giving greater transparency to share trading and making the market more attractive to foreign investors.

Siberian miners agree to resume work Friday

WARSAW (R) — Poland has leased 243 medium-sized state companies to private entrepreneurs and plans more leases to speed up its lagging privatisation programme. Privatisation Minister Janusz Lewandowski said.

Lewandowski told a news conference the government was concerned with the slow pace of privatising 4,000 small-and-medium-sized enterprises, many of which are in poor financial condition.

"Leasing is a good method because it is based on selling state enterprises gradually. It is capitalism without capital," he said.

The government has so far concentrated its privatisation programme on the sale of big, prosperous companies to attract a growing number of investors. But Lewandowski said the experimental leasing operations showed that many local entrepreneurs and groups of investors

wanted to buy collapsing state firms. The government wanted to exploit this trend, he added.

Poland has so far sold off seven large companies by public subscription and has sold several others to foreign investors.

The government announced last month that 100 big companies would be privatised this year by handing out up to 50 per cent of their shares in free vouchers to the public. A further 40 to 50 companies will be sold by public offer.

In another area, Poland has agreed to sell one million tonnes of grain and 100,000 tonnes of meat to the Soviet Union.

"This will not be a credit arrangement," a government spokesman said. He declined to give further details.

The Soviet Union is suffering a serious food shortage but lacks hard currency. It has repeatedly expressed interest in purchasing surplus Polish produce on credit.

Polish granaries are still bulging with last year's harvest and the market is glutted with meat.

Polish-Soviet trade has slumped since transactions switched to convertible currencies in January. Last month the official news agency PAP reported that Poland's trade deficit with the Soviet Union stood at \$280 million in March.

One of Poland's major Baltic shipyards faces a bleak future because of the Soviet Union's failure to take delivery of ships commissioned in better times.

PAP said the Adolf Warski yard in the north-western port of Szczecin was losing one billion zloties (\$105,000) a day.

Egypt set to increase, streamline import duties

CAIRO (R) — Egypt is preparing sharp increases in import tariffs in the coming week, the latest in a series of harsh IMF-prescribed measures to cut the budget deficit, senior economists have said.

Tariffs will be streamlined and most goods entering the country will be charged at 30 to 40 per cent of their value, a substantial increase over the variety of rates now applied.

International Cooperation Minister Morris Makramallah told the Al Ahran newspaper the new tariff programme would be submitted to cabinet this week.

Economists estimated the increase could earn the government around one billion pounds (\$300 million) in the financial year beginning in July.

"The tariff is very protectionist, but is probably necessary to gain revenue," said one Western economist.

The International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) overriding concern is to reduce Egypt's budget deficit, which this year reached 15

billion pounds (\$4.5 billion), and there are few politically acceptable tools to do so.

The government wants to reduce the deficit to under 10 per cent of gross domestic product, estimated this year at around 100 billion pounds (\$80 billion).

It slapped a 10 per cent sales tax on manufactured goods last week and sharply raised petrol, cooking fuel and other energy prices.

The price rises have infuriated many Egyptians but are deemed necessary to gain IMF approval for an accord on economic reform.

Western creditors have pledged to cancel much of their share of Egypt's \$35 billion foreign debt once a deal is signed.

Makramallah said import tariffs, which now range from zero to 240 per cent, would be streamlined to within a band from five to 100 per cent.

Basic foodstuffs will be exempt to protect the poor and the band will later be narrowed to 10 to 80

per cent.

At the same time, import and export rules will be relaxed, Makramallah said. Exporters will no longer need government approval on many items and eventually all export restrictions will be abolished.

A "negative list" of items that cannot be imported will be drawn up to replace the present system where importers must get government approval for every item.

Makramallah said the new policy would mean ending preferential access to foreign currency allocations for the public sector.

In the last four months Egypt has rushed towards a free market economy, reversing 80 years of central planning.

It has liberalised currency and money markets and is preparing to free state firms from government control.

Prime Minister Atef Sedki, in an interview Monday in Al Ahran, said within three years the government would no longer control prices, which would be set purely by supply and demand.

New Zealand Dairy Board seals first sale to Iraq since war

WELLINGTON (R) — The New Zealand Dairy Board has signed its first deal with Iraq since sanctions prohibiting the sale of food and medicines were lifted following the Gulf war, a spokeswoman said Tuesday.

The board, a producers' cooperative whose annual exports are worth about three billion New Zealand dollars (\$1.8 billion), will ship 500 tonnes of wholemilk powder to an Iraqi government agency in mid-May for \$1.5 million.

"As far as we know it's all been guaranteed. It's a cash sale and there's no credit involved," she told Reuters.

The board had shipped some powder to Iraq since last August when sanctions were imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait, because the deal had been signed beforehand and the goods paid for, she added.

Before the sanctions, the board had forecast exports to Iraq would be worth 50 million New Zealand dollars (\$29.45 million) in the June 1991 year. But it now expects that figure to be nearer 22 million New Zealand dollars (\$13 million).

A spokesman at the ministry of external relations and trade said the deal required authorisation from the United Nations Sanctions Committee, but he doubted this would be a problem.

The chairman of the Australian Wheat Board (AWB) will travel to Baghdad next week to sign contracts to supply one million tonnes of wheat, Iraq's trade minister, Mohammad Mehdi Saleh, said Monday.

Saleh said the AWB had agreed the deal, worth \$155 million, during weekend talks in Amman following the easing of United Nations trade sanctions.

5-week strike ends at Turkish Airlines

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish Airlines (THY) and Turkish airport staff have agreed to end a five-week-long strike after their trade union accepted salary increases averaging 154 per cent, a THY management spokesman said Wednesday.

"A preliminary protocol was signed at 2:00 a.m. this morning," the spokesman told Reuters. "Starting from Thursday, flights will gradually resume."

The strike has badly disrupted air traffic in Turkey and THY officials say the company has been losing about 6.4 billion lira (\$1.6 million) a day.

The 8,000 THY staff and 2,000 airport workers stopped work on April 1 to press demands for salary increases of between 100 and 600 per cent, based on a sliding scale giving the largest increases to the lowest paid.

Before the strike, the lowest

paid at THY earned 400,000 lira (\$100) a month and the average salary stood at 1.95 million lira (\$500).

Inflation in Turkey is running at more than 60 per cent a year but the workers have not had a rise since March 1990, when they felt they were already falling behind inflation.

Officials from the labour union Hava-Is said a new two-year contract to be backdated to October 1990 was likely to be signed within the next few days.

Before the strike THY flew to 14 domestic and 55 foreign destinations with a 31-aircraft fleet. It carried about 80 per cent of domestic traffic and about half of the international passengers to and from Turkey.

THY General Manager Cem Kozlu said two weeks ago the airline would have to close down if the strike did not end soon.

Argentina to import food to fight inflation

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina, seeking to beat three-digit inflation, will change its sanitary codes to encourage cheap food and drug imports, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said Tuesday.

"We are living the paradox of a country full of natural resources for farm production where food is expensive and its prices do not come down," Cavallo said in a televised speech.

Food, education and health insurance prices all rose at rates above the 5.5 per cent average jump in consumer prices in April.

Cavallo, who took office in January after a run on the austral currency and a bout of high inflation forced out his predecessor, is struggling to bring inflation down to international levels from its current 267 per cent annual rate.

He said the government will allow imports of drugs from countries whose quality standards are similar to Argentina's.

"Businessmen in our food and medicine industries used to be champions of the free market, but, using quality and sanitary controls as an excuse, they always made sure they would have no foreign competition," he said.

Cavallo said he also planned to pressure local carmakers into offering better quality cars at lower prices by allowing 8,000 vehicles to be imported at unusually low tax rates.

"These imports will not take a share of the market from Argentine factories but will require carmakers to be prepared to improve quality and prices," he said.

"At the same time, we will have a quick, extra influx of tax funds," Cavallo added.

"A tax dodger is a common criminal and he will be treated that way because not paying taxes means pensioners and workers go hungry, infant mortality rate remains high and the country's infrastructure keeps decaying," he said.

Poland speed up privatisation

MOSCOW (AP) — Coal miners in western Siberia, the last major holdouts of a costly, two-month national strike, agreed Wednesday to return to work.

All but 12 mines in the vast Kuznetsk basin, the Soviet Union's second most important coal producing region, will resume work Friday, said Sergei Zelenkov, the strike committee co-chairman.

"The main reason we stopped (the strike) is that the men are tired and worn-out," said miners' union spokesman Boris Vasilenko.

"We are going to rise again as soon as we accumulate enough forces," he added.

They and miners at the six pits on the far east island of Sakhalin were the only mines still taking part in a strike that began March 1, according to the Independent Union of Miners.

At its height, the strike idled one-third of the country's 600 mines and 300,000 of the 1.2 million miners.

Kuznetsk miners refused to resume work until they could study a document under which Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to relinquish control over half the country's coal mines to the Russian Federation, led by Boris Yeltsin.

The Sakhalin miners also were holding out for proof that they will be transferred to Russian jurisdiction.

Copies of the agreement were hand-delivered to the Kuznetsk miners Wednesday, after they refused to consider a text dictated over the telephone from Moscow by regional strike committee chairman Vyacheslav Golikov.

Miners' representatives from 16 cities in the Kuznetsk basin

voted 14-2 in favour of returning to work, Zelenkov said by telephone from Kemerovo. They represent 41 of the region's 53 mines, he said.

Miners at 12 pits in Beriozovsk and Leninsk-Kuznetsk will hold separate meetings Friday to decide whether to prolong the walk-out, he said.

The agreement, signed Monday, transfers control of the mines from Gorbachev's central government, with its cumbersome bureaucracy, to Russia, where political rival Yeltsin heads a more economically progressive administration.

Yeltsin has promised miners full economic independence, including the right to switch to private ownership.

Miners hope the Russian government will act on their demands for higher wages and better working conditions. Most have given up their political demands, which ranged from Gorbachev's resignation to greater power sharing with the republics.

Cinema Tel: 677428
CONCORD
Kevin Costner, Anthony Quinn
REVENGE
Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
Fifi Abdo / Adel Adham
Mahmoud Al Jundi
in
NOOR AL UYOON
Arabic
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571
NUJUM
Mahmoud Abdul Aziz
in
ABU KARTONEH
Arabic
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155
RAINBOW
TEMPLE OF DOOM
Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

دالاس بيتزا
DALLAS PIZZA
Why go to America to get a pizza?!!
At Dallas Pizza you find what you are looking for.
Small Super JD 1.700 Small Vegetables JD 1.400
Medium Super JD 3.000 Medium Vegetables JD 2.500
Large Super JD 4.500 Large Vegetables JD 4.000
Cheese & Tomato JD 1.000 Pizzas Pepproni JD 1.200
Small JD 1.800 Medium JD 2.200
Large JD 2.800 Large JD 3.000
Amman — Jordan
7th Circle, near the American School

U.S. to resume SDI tests in Pacific

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (R) — The United States is resuming tests in the Western Pacific on technology to intercept nuclear missiles as part of its Star Wars defence programme, a U.S. army spokesman said Wednesday.

The fresh round of tests takes place after President George Bush said the programme should be re-focused on lesser threats like those posed by Soviet missiles fired in the Gulf war.

"There are some tests occurring in the month of May," Lieutenant Colonel Frank Moore, the U.S. army's liaison officer for Kwajalein Atoll Test Centre, said in an interview.

The tests would possibly include destruction of a missile fired from Vandenberg military base in California by another missile fired to intercept it above the U.S. army testing range at

Kwajalein, in the Western Pacific.

Kwajalein Atoll is more than 2,200 miles (3,600 kilometres) southwest of Hawaii.

Moore said further tests were likely on anti-missile technology after the successful interception of a missile fired from Vandenberg last January.

A spokesman for the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), as the Star Wars programme is known, said in Washington the tests could be run for a two-week period during May.

"There is a window between the first and third week of May to run the missile tests. They are trying to settle on an optimum date because the weather conditions have to be just right in California and in Kwajalein," the spokesman said.

With the end of the cold war, U.S. officials have expressed concern that potential enemies of the United States such as North Korea could produce nuclear weapons that could be used in a war with Washington.

"The concern now (is to counter a smaller power... developing a ballistic missile or a nuclear weapons capability)," Moore said.

But Admiral David Jeremiah, vice-chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Congress last month the Pentagon still wants a Star Wars system that can shoot down half the nuclear missiles the Soviet Union could fire in a war.

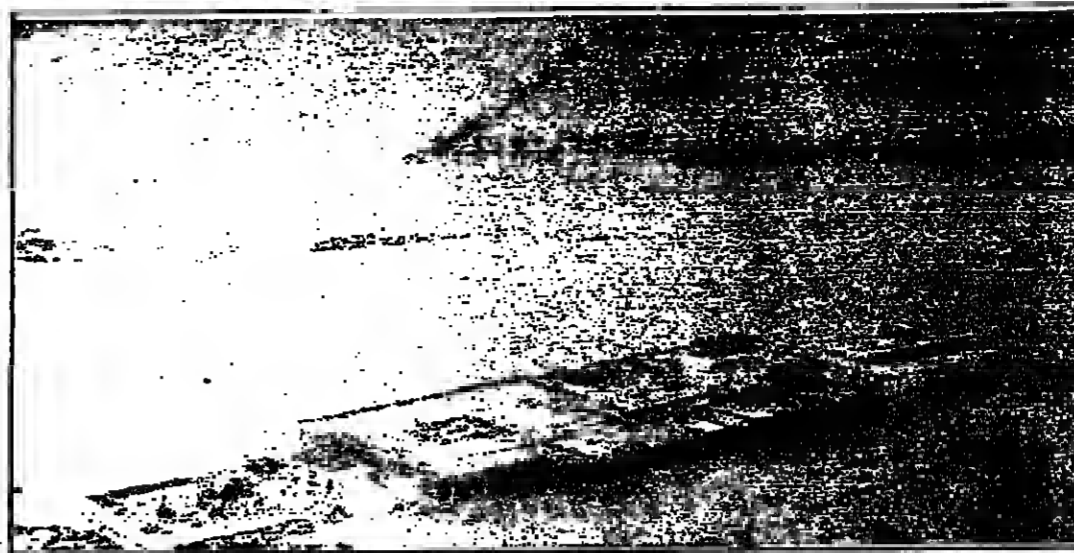
Moscow has warned the United States that the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) being negotiated in Geneva to slash some types of nuclear weapons by as much as half

would be nullified if Washington puts the Star Wars system in place.

Support for the \$46 billion project is dwindling in Congress, which finds the more than \$5 billion needed by the programme every year throughout the 1990s a high price for an economy reeling from recession and a big budget deficit.

The Star Wars system was originally proposed by then President Ronald Reagan. The programme focuses on whether U.S. space or ground weapons could be developed and deployed to shoot down enemy missiles.

SDI officials told Congress that turmoil in regional hotspots like the Gulf and the possibility of an accidental nuclear war heightened the need for the Star Wars programme.



Bangladesh's port city of Chittagong is submerged in water as a cyclone hits the densely-populated coastal area.

Tornado, flash floods hit Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — An army of Red Cross volunteers helped to bury thousands of rotting corpses and animal carcasses Wednesday as a tornado and flash floods wreaked more devastation on cyclone-mauled Bangladesh.

The tornado hit the industrial town of Gazipur, just north of Dhaka, late Tuesday, bringing winds of up to 100 mph (160 kph).

Bangladesh was already reeling in the aftermath of the worst cyclone in its history, which killed more than 125,000 people and devastated coastal areas nine days ago.

Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Walid Islam said the bodies of 25 tornado victims had been recovered. "It is a tragic story of one woe treading upon another," he said.

"Wherever they're coming across bodies they're burying them," he told Reuters Tuesday.

But the work is going too slowly, aid officials said.

"Burial of the dead people and animals is not taking place quickly enough to avoid disease in the Chittagong and Cox's Bazar areas," the charity Care said in statement Wednesday.

More than 75,000 people were killed in those two areas, according to official figures.

Care said there were not enough gravediggers "to meet the enormous need" for burial in the predominantly Muslim nation.

"In Bangladesh this work is normally only carried out by special worker groups or by Hindus of a particular caste," Care said. "It has been further reported that other labourers are refusing to do this work despite Care's best effort to employ them."

The confirmed death toll stands at 125,730 but that figure does not include thousands of people still missing after the storm, McClean said.

More than 900,000 badly-decomposed cattle killed in the disaster are threatening to contaminate drinking water, officials said.

The Red Cross said earlier this week that the death toll could eventually rise to 200,000. Relief workers and doctors say up to a quarter of a million people may have been injured, either when

4th youth sets himself ablaze as S. Korean crisis deepens

SEOUL (AP) — A young man yelling anti-government slogans set himself on fire Wednesday and jumped off a university building to protest the fatal beating of a student by police. He died immediately, witnesses said.

It was the fourth self-immolation in less than two weeks during nationwide protests demanding the resignation of President Roh Tae-Woo's cabinet and broader political and economic reforms. Two other youths have died and another remains in critical condition.

News reports said the cabinet ministers held emergency meetings Wednesday morning to seek ways to deal with the continuing crisis.

Main opposition party leader Kim Dae-Jung appealed for non-violent protests, warning that any attempt to overthrow the government by force may invite military intervention.

"We cannot rule out the possibility of military intervention if we try to overthrow the government by force," Kim, head of the

New Democratic Union, told a news conference.

His appeal came during a sit-in by radical students at his party's offices. About 600 students broke in Tuesday to urge the party to help topple Roh's government.

Roh, leader of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and a former general, took office in 1988. His December 1987 election was the first peaceful transfer of power in South Korea after 29 years of authoritarian military-backed rule.

Yugoslav army reportedly decides to act independently

VIENNA (Agencies) — The foreign ministers of Yugoslavia's northern republic of Slovenia reported Wednesday as saying the Yugoslav army had decided to act independently in the current political crisis.

Dimitry Rupel was quoted by Austrian Radio as saying he had information that the army had decided "not to take the politicians seriously any longer."

"They (the army) want to act independently," the minister said, describing the conflict between Serbia and Croatia as "very serious."

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman said Tuesday he did not think the federal army would intervene in the conflict.

The Yugoslav army has warned the country's leader it would no longer tolerate violence against the armed forces, and has been put on combat alert.

Rupel described the current conflict between the country's two largest republics as "a fight for the eastern border of Western Europe."

Calling it "a conflict between the military and civil society," he said it had some elements of civil war, although his own republic was not yet affected by it.

A deputy defence minister Wednesday accused leaders of Yugoslavia's republics of encouraging ethnic conflict and pushing the country into civil war.

Sources said the military is demanding a nationwide state of emergency.

Admiral Stane Brovet, a deputy defence minister and head of military counter-intelligence, told the federal parliament that "legally elected organs of authority... regretably are the proponents of inter-ethnic conflict that assume many forms of a civil war."

Borba, the respected Belgrade daily, said Yugoslavia's eight-man presidency still was badly split over the army's demand for emergency powers to cope with ethnic violence.

Twenty people have been killed in the past week in some of the worst inter-ethnic fighting the Balkan federation has seen since World War II. The army has been sent into some areas of Croatia to separate Croats and Serbs.

Yugoslavia's main conflict is between Serbs, the largest ethnic group, and Croats, the second-largest. Nearly all of those killed in the past week died in fighting between the two groups inside Croatia.

"We want to know if these boys are ours," said Abdul Aziz, a 52-year-old man whose son was among more than 5,000 Kashmiri men believed to be in Pakistan. India says the Kashmiris are trained in guerrilla warfare in Pakistani camps. Islamabad denies the charge but says it favours the Kashmiri's right to self-determination.

In New Delhi, police Tuesday arrested a Kashmiri militant and two others suspected of setting off five bombs in the capital in the past few months, which killed at least four people and injured 18 others.

Police identified the ringleader as Mohammad Ayub, of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front.

More than 2,000 people have been killed in Kashmir since the separatist insurgency widened in December 1989. Nearly two-thirds of Jammu-Kashmir's 6 million people are Muslim. Nationwide, Muslims make up 12 per cent of India's 844 million people.

21 die in Malaysian fireworks factory fire

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Officials confirmed 21 dead Wednesday in explosions and fire that spread from a fireworks factory and destroyed six other plants and about 50 homes.

Director of Fire Service Department Badaruddin Mat Isa told the Malaysian News Agency, Bernama, that 21 bodies had been recovered intact from the fire area in Sungai Buloh, on Kuala Lumpur's outskirts, but that partial remains also had been found.

Hospitals reported another 50 people had been hospitalised, and at least 10 others had been treated and released.

Police said relatives had reported at least 15 people missing. Some 200 people were left homeless by the fire, called the worst in Malaysia's history by Bernama.

Officials earlier had given the toll from Tuesday evening's fire as 40, with the number of deaths feared likely to approach 100.

Police kill 7 as strike continues in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Indian paramilitary troops killed seven people in their homes Wednesday after coming under fire from an ambush by Muslim guerrillas, police and witnesses said.

The guerrillas, waging a campaign for independence for the northern Kashmir district, fired on a patrol of the Border Security Force from the narrow lanes of Srinagar's Nishad neighbourhood.

The guerrillas escaped, but enraged troops hunting for them entered a number of houses and killed seven people, witnesses said.

Police confirmed the killing but did not say how they occurred. It was not immediately known if any of the troops were killed or injured in the rebel ambush.

Gunfire could be heard in the city after the killings, but it was not clear if fresh battles between militants and troops had broken out or whether troops were firing in the air to keep residents indoors.

The incident coincided with the second day of a strike called by Kashmiri militants to condemn the deaths of 73 armed Muslim militants in a gunbattle as they crossed the Indian frontier from Pakistan. They were among 300 guerrillas caught slipping across the ceasefire line, the government said.

Bush returns to hospital briefly for tests

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush returned to hospital early Wednesday for the first of a series of tests that will test doctors how to treat the thyroid condition diagnosed as the cause of his irregular heartbeat last weekend.

"It shouldn't take more than 15 minutes. We'll probably be back here within the hour," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters as Bush prepared to fly by helicopter to Bethesda Naval Hospital at 6.45 a.m. (1045 GMT).

"(I) feel good," the president said as he walked to the helicopter on the White House South Lawn.

Dr. Burton Lee, the White House physician, said the test involved an X-ray scan of Bush's thyroid.

Lee said the president would drink a radioactive iodine cocktail before leaving the hospital and return Thursday for a second X-ray after the iodine pervades the gland.

The president's medical team said it would take about a week to determine how to treat the thyroid condition.

Lee said Bush was "very happy" with the news that the thyroid condition was the cause of his heart problem, adding: "He doesn't like the monitors."

Bush has been wearing an electronic heart monitor wired to his chest but will no longer need the device once his condition is treated.

Asked whether the tests would affect the president's heavy schedule Wednesday, Fitzwater said: "At this point it hasn't

been changed. When we get back we'll take a look at it."

Dump Quayle, polls say

Meanwhile two new polls say a majority of Americans think Vice President Dan Quayle ought to be dumped from the Republican ticket in 1992s.

Both surveys were taken in the days since President George Bush was diagnosed as having an irregular heart beat.

The incident touched off renewed speculation about Quayle's standing with the public.

A USA Today newspaper poll of 611 adults found 51 per cent saying Bush should choose a different running mate next year. Only 38 per cent favoured keeping Quayle on the ticket.

Troops bar way to scene of latest Soviet atrocity

BAGANIS, Soviet Union (R) — For correspondents trying to reach Voskepar, scene of the latest atrocity in Armenia, the trail ended five kilometres away in the small village of Baganis.

Soviet troops armed with automatic weapons had laid a telegraph pole and barbed wire across the only road to Voskepar, which lies in the far north-east of Armenia, 250 kilometres from the capital Yerevan and close to the Azerbaïdjan border.

"We didn't attack people, we were just defending ourselves when people began shooting at us," said a senior lieutenant who would only identify himself as Mikhail.

"What I saw on the television last night bore no relation to the truth whatsoever. No more journalists are going to go through here," he said.

Armenia's President Levon Ter-Petrossian said earlier Tuesday that Soviet troops had destroyed the village, tanks and heavy artillery. Dozens of people had been killed, he told reporters in Yerevan.

Major Tigran Sarkisyan, Armenian police chief for the region, had another version. The soldiers opened fire on a bus bringing his men back from guard duty in the village, killing 11 policemen and two civilians, he said.

Back from Baganis, Sarkisyan stopped at low two-storey white house in the town to pay his last respects to his 27-year-old deputy, one of those killed on the bus.

Twenty women of different generations, many weeping copiously, crowded round a plain wooden coffin. The lower half of the dead man's face was covered by a white handkerchief.

"No it's not a local tradition. Most of his face was blown away by bullets," said Sarkisyan, watching the young man's widow silently stroking her dead husband's head.

"He was very brave, one of the best. His second child was born just a few days ago."

"They came to my village and started destroying it," Sarkisyan said. "They said that unless I handed my guns over to them, they would level the entire place. I, the police chief, had to give them my weapons," he said grimly.

Back in Yerevan, a huge crowd waited anxiously outside the city's second airport for two flights carrying refugees from two Armenian villages in Azerbaijan which Soviet troops and Azeri police are alleged to have destroyed, killing 36 people.

When the first plane touched down, several men scaled the high airport walls and jumped down onto the tarmac.

When the second landed, the rest of the crowd forced open the airport's iron gates and swarmed round the two aircraft, ignoring the desperate attempts of police to hold them back.

The air came alive with cries — bellows of joy from those finding a relative safe, wails of distress from the less fortunate.

"We've suffered a tragedy," said a weeping middle-aged woman dressed mainly in black. "Our father has died in Nagorno-Karabakh and there is no way we can get there."

Police confirmed the killing but did not say how they occurred. It was not immediately known if any of the troops were killed or injured in the rebel ambush.

Gunfire could be heard in the city after the killings, but it was not clear if fresh battles between militants and troops had broken out or whether troops were firing in the air to keep residents indoors.

The incident coincided with the second day of a strike called by Kashmiri militants to condemn the deaths of 73 armed Muslim militants in a gunbattle as they crossed the Indian frontier from Pakistan. They were among 300 guerrillas caught slipping across the ceasefire line, the government said.

The government initially reported 66 rebels were killed in the skirmish but the state-owned television said seven more bodies were found later.

In Srinagar, hundreds of anxious people thronged the police headquarters inquiring if their relatives were among those killed on the frontier. The authorities refused to allow them to view the bodies.

"We want to know if these boys are ours," said Abdul Aziz, a 52-year-old man whose son was among more than 5,000 Kashmiri men believed to be in Pakistan. India says the Kashmiris are trained in guerrilla warfare in Pakistani camps. Islamabad denies the charge but says it favours the Kashmiri's right to self-determination.

In New Delhi, police Tuesday arrested a Kashmiri militant and two others suspected of setting off five bombs in the capital in the past few months, which killed at least four people and injured 18 others.

Police identified the ringleader as Mohammad Ayub, of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front.

More than 2,000 people have been killed in Kashmir since the separatist insurgency widened in December 1989. Nearly two-thirds of Jammu-Kashmir's 6 million people are Muslim. Nationwide, Muslims make up 12 per cent of India's 844 million people.

Coal mine blast kills 147 in China

PEKING (AP) — A gas explosion has killed at least 147 coal miners in China's worst mine accident in 30 years, officials said Wednesday.

The official Xinhua News Agency said "long-term negligence" was to blame for the April 21 explosion at the state-owned Sanjiao Coal Mine in Shanxi province, west of Peking.

The report did not say why the accident was not reported sooner.

A man at the Shanxi Provincial Coal Industry Bureau, who identified himself only as Zhao, said all 147 miners signed in to go down the mine shaft were assumed dead, though not all the bodies have been found.

He said others may have been killed because the explosion

occurred as one shift of workers has come out and another was going down. The mine has about 985 workers, Zheng said.

Xinhua quoted Hu Fuguo, vice minister of energy resources, as saying the mine lacked basic safety facilities. Hu said 90 per cent of the workers were temporary and had no safety knowledge or training.

Chinese labour union's legal adviser freed

PEKING (AP) — A Chinese labour activist has been released after nearly two years in prison, according to a human rights group that linked his freedom to economic pressure from the United States.

Li Jinjin, 35, was released from Peking's maximum security prison for political prisoners a week ago, Robin Munro, a spokesman for the New York-based Asia Watch, said Wednesday.

Li was the legal adviser to an independent labour union founded during 1989's democracy movement.

Peking judiciary and public security officials said they could not immediately confirm his release.

Munro noted that Li's release coincided with growing pressure in the United States to withdraw China's most-favoured-nation trade status to punish Peking for human rights violations and trade practices that are deemed unfair. The trade status grants Chinese imports or the lowest possible

tariffs.

A senior U.S. State Department official who met with Chinese officials Monday said China's human rights record would be considered when the United States decides whether to renew the special trade status.

Munro said Li was "exempted from prosecution," but has been expelled from Peking University, where he was a doctoral student.

He has rejoined his wife in their home in Wuhan, in central China, and is in good health, Munro added.

Li was freed just two days after the release of Han Dongfang, who founded the Peking Worker Autonomous Federation in May 1989 at the height of the massive student-led democracy movement. Munro estimated the group had a membership in the thousands.

The federation's founders envisioned it becoming an alternative to the monolithic Communist-organised Labour

Federation. Workers in Shanghai and other cities also organised independent unions.

After the June 4, 1989, military crackdown that crushed the popular movement, authorities issued arrest warrants for Han and other union members.

The Communist leadership feared that the unions eventually would organise workers to revolt against the ruling party.

At least two others involved in the Peking union remain in jail without trial — workers Liu Qiang and Zhao Pinlu. Organisers of independent unions in other cities also remain in jail.

Workers and peasants involved in the 1989 movement have been given the harshest sentences because their cases have generated little international attention and because the government fears a worker uprising more than a student one.

Li, a doctoral student in constitutional law and a law instructor, was the legal consultant for the

Peking union. Before joining the Democracy Movement, he was head of Peking University's official Graduate Students Union.

Li was arrested at his home at gunpoint on June 12, 1989, and held at a Peking detention centre. He was transferred early this year to Qincheng, the maximum security prison outside Peking, apparently in preparation for trial, Munro said.

More than two dozen student leaders and intellectuals were tried behind closed doors early this year for their roles in the Democracy Movement. Sentences ranged up to 13 years in prison.

Although the government recently said trials of people involved in the 1989 protests are "basically completed," at least a dozen people are still in jail awaiting trial.

Thousands of others are believed to be serving terms in jail or labour camps for joining in or supporting the Democracy Movement.

COLUMN

Lee Remick honoured

LONG BEACH, California (AP) — Actress Lee Remick was honoured by the International Winston Churchill Society for her portrayal of Churchill's mother, Gregory Peck presented Miss Remick the Blenheim Award at a black-tie gala on board the Queen Mary. The award is named for Blenheim Palace, where the late British statesman was born. Miss Remick was honoured for her performance in the 1975 television movie *Jennie, Lady Randolph Churchill*. The 55-year-old actress, who is battling kidney cancer, has played other famous women, including a former first lady in *Eleanor* — In Her Own Words: A Tribute To Eleanor Roosevelt, and Frances Bradshaw Schreder, a socialite who was convicted of talking her 17-year-old son into committing murder. She was nominated for an Academy Award for her 1962 portrayal of a drunken wife in *The Days Of Wine And Roses*.

Citizen Kane a box office hit at 50

LOS ANGELES (R) — Orson Welles' film classic *Citizen Kane*, re-released for its 50th anniversary on May 1, proved a winner at the box office, bringing in \$290,978 in the United States in its first five days on just 11 screens, Paramount Pictures said. "It's remarkable for a film that's this old," Paramount spokesman Richard Bornstein said Monday. The new, painstakingly restored print of Welles' masterpiece set a house record at New York's Biograph Theatre with a gross of \$31,978, said Paramount, the film's distributor. At the age of 25, Welles produced, co-wrote, directed and starred in *Citizen Kane*, the story of a newspaper tycoon.

Michelangelo painting to be auctioned

GENEVA (AP) — A painting by Michelangelo that vanished more than 200 years ago from an Italian monastery will be auctioned in Switzerland next month in a sale the auctioneer predicts is likely to stun the art world. Auctioneer Bendicht Gnaegi said it was impossible to estimate how much the painting will fetch because the June 7 sale will mark the first auction of a canvas by the towering figure of Renaissance art. The painting, "Il Vero Riscatto" (The True Redemption), depicts the agony of Christ, and comes with a complete record of its owners dating to 1522 when Michelangelo was 47, Gnaegi said. He said it has been hanging in the San Dalmazzo Monastery in Turin until 1780 when the building was ransacked and burned by French troops. A Swiss family that had "business relations with Turin" acquired it in the same year "without knowing what they had bought," he said. It has since changed owners in Switzerland several times. Gnaegi spoke in a telephone interview Monday from his auction house, founded only three years ago in the town of Lyss. He said the Michelangelo's authenticity is supported by a 1566 certificate issued to Pope Pius V, who was later raised to sainthood, and by attestations made out about 20 years ago by two Italian experts in Bergamo and Milan.

Australians may need space suits

SYDNEY (R) — Australians will have to wear space suits and live in glass-domed cities in the next century unless science can stop the thinning of the sun-filtering ozone layer, a skin cancer expert said Wednesday. Australians, who have the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, would not be able to go outdoors by the year 2060 without complete body protection, Professor Bill McCarthy told a surgeons' conference. McCarthy, head of the Sydney Melanoma Unit, said Ultraviolet C radiation, now blocked out by the ozone layer, would cause cancer on contact with unprotected skin. "If we extrapolate from what is currently happening with the ozone layer, if we can't prevent the deterioration, then Ultraviolet C will hit the Earth," he said in a media release. McCarthy, a world authority on ultraviolet radiation, said recent studies found little had been achieved by moves to conserve the ozone layer. He said active regeneration of the ozone layer might have to be considered, along with building physical barriers such as city domes.